

'The tender mercy of God has given us one another.'

Catherine McAuley

THE MERCY BRONZE

The Mater Hospital Brisbane Queensland commissioned Gael O'Leary to create the Mercy Bronze. Gael was a Sister of Mercy in Auckland for 40 years and she has always remained closely linked to the charism of Catherine.

The Bronze traces the story of God's mercy through scripture, the life of Jesus Christ and the work of the Sisters of Mercy. The panels are divided into sections: the mercy of God, mercy in the life of Jesus, women of mercy, and the call to live mercy and justice.



Using the Mercy Bronze in Formation Programs & Reflection

The Mercy Bronze by Gael O'Leary invites prayerful contemplation. You can use the panels of this sculpture as an individual or group reflection on mercy, using the reflection questions provided.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE MERCY BRONZE FOR FORMATION, DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION WITH STAFF, STUDENTS AND WIDER GROUPS.

- Use a Visio Divina where participants select a bronze panel and walk with a particular image as a reflective prayer experience. Instructions on using the Visio Divina prayer form are provided in the appendices.
- Create reflection cards using the bronze panels. Team these with quotes by or about Catherine McAuley and gift them to others in the workshop – quotes about Catherine McAuley are included in the Reflections section of this resource.
- Ask participants to create alternative mercy images using scripture and the life of the Sisters of Mercy.
- Match the bronze panels with words from Catherine McAuley's letters to create posters for display in a staffroom or other communal area.
- Use the bronzes with groups to reflect on the nature of Mercy. Challenge participants to explain the story and the message within the panels and present their interpretation to the whole group.
- Research the use of bronze in religious sculptures and iconography.
Discuss:
 - the visual impact of bronze
 - the kinetic effect of bronze
 - where bronze is used innovatively in artwork
- Ask groups to draw their own panel telling the story of the founding of their own ministry and what is important in the story of the Sisters of Mercy in their context.