

Timeline

The initial chapter in our long history must indelibly mark the **24th July 1858** – the day when Mother Clare McNamara from Limerick accompanied by Sister M> Juliana Grant came to establish the foundation in the city. On the **31st August** with the arrival of Sister M. Gertrude Ryan (Superior) and four more Sisters the community was complete.

Early records are fragmentary but we are indebted to 'Extracts from St. Mary's Limerick and to the painstaking calligraphy of these pioneer Sisters for much of the ensuing list.

1859 Mother Elizabeth Moore spent three months here.

A recent convert **Mrs. Isabella Hutchison** took steps to supply the finance for the convent we know today.

1860
'The Scotsman'
of **17 October 1860** reads **NEW RESIDENCE FOR THE SISTERS OF MERCY**

'in the garden ground to the south of Lauriston House a large and striking edifice is rapidly approaching completion.

1872 This year was marked by the election of Mother M Agnes Snow whose history for many years was the history of the convent. St. Ignatius School was built by the local Jesuits and staffed by the Sisters of Mercy.



1886 Aquin College was opened – a centre for the Cambridge Teaching Diploma

1905 St. Thomas of Aquin's High School opened and was recognised by the Board of Education



1976 The Westminster amalgamation and the Birmigham amalgamation joined to form the **UNION OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY OF GREAT BRITAIN**



1861
30 April 1861 the Sisters take possession of the new convent.

6 June 1861 Mother M Juliana is elected as the first Scottish Superior.

1867 the first death is recorded.

1869 three professions are entered.

1876 The Sisters opened **St. Andrew's Convent in Dalkeith.**

1880 The Bazaar in aid of the House of Mercy raised £1000

1915 (21 January) The Golden Jubilee of Mother Mary Agnes

1918 Education Act (Scotland) This placed all Catholic Schools on a footing of exact equality with all other schools in the country.

1958 an eventful year – amalgamation with Westminster – Our own Centenary and our visit to Lourdes with the 'Mercy Pilgrimage'



1979 on June 23rd the Bi-Centenary of our Foundress was celebrated when his Eminence Cardinal Gray consecrated the Chapel using the new rite of Vatican II

1991 Celebration for the Venerable Catherine McAuley

1992 Mercy International Association was formed and Baggot Street became **MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**

1992 Sister Mary Aelred opened the Homeless Project and Mercy Centre. The ministry has grown and flourished from then until the present time and Thursday November 4 she was honoured at the City Chambers and presented with the **WILL Y DARLING AWARD FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP FROM THE Lord Provost of Edinburgh**

2006 marked the 175th anniversary of the Foundation of the Order

2008 marks one hundred and fifty years of the Sisters of Mercy in Edinburgh



Catherine McAuley

Catherine McAuley was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1778. Her father died when she was five.

After her mother died in 1798, she lived with relatives until she moved in with the Callaghans, an elderly couple whom she cared for until their deaths. With the inheritance she received from them, she founded the House of Mercy on Baggot Street, Dublin, in 1827 to provide shelter for homeless servant girls and women, education for poor children and visitation of the sick poor in their homes and in hospitals. Catherine founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831 to continue these works of Mercy.

She died ten years later, in November 1841. Today Sisters of Mercy, with their associates and co-workers, minister throughout the world wherever need calls and their resources permit.

Throughout their History the Sisters of Mercy have followed the example of their founder, Catherine McAuley, by centering themselves in God and deepening their commitment to the works of mercy through the daily practice of personal and communal prayer.

Whilst the enduring influence of Catherine's life and work, and the influence of her compassionate and practical concern for the poor are

considered by many to be miraculous, what is required for Catherine to be beatified is a miraculous cure and a further miracle is needed for her canonisation. With Catherine McAuley's vision as our shared inheritance we the Sisters of Mercy feel called at this time to promote the vision in ways that are creative and life giving appropriate to the times and sufficiently compelling to claim Catherine as a canonised saint.

