

The mercy sisters in New Zealand are a religious order founded by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland in 1831. The sister of mercy was established to provide education and assistance to the poor and the sick, women and children. The order expanded quickly, and they opened hospitals and schools and other institutions throughout Ireland and beyond. Today the sisters of mercy continue to work in education, healthcare, social justice, and environmental activism. They operate schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. They provide support to marginalized communities around the world. The mercy sister order is now present in more than 40 countries world wise.

The empowerment of women and children in Dublin was the sole aim of Catherine McAuley's work. She was aware that women and children in the community needed education to succeed. She was adamant that everyone had dignity and was created in the likeness of God. God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So, God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" Genesis 1:26-27.

Bishop Pompallier had a profound influence on the sisters of mercy; without him, the work of mercy would never have reached New Zealand, contrary to widespread belief. Grant Thomas and Mary Pointon's desire for a bishop in New Zealand, Bishop Pompallier sailed from Ireland to Hokitika on December 30, 1837. After sailing back to Dublin, he enlisted Cecilia Maher and 8 other sisters to take a boat to New Zealand to work with the Māori women and children there to practice mercy in a major way. When the Mercy Sisters arrived in New Zealand, they at once began to work. They put a lot of work into learning the Māori language to communicate with the Māori people more effectively. Because of the way Bishop Pompallier handled the spiritual and cultural disparities between the various races and civilizations that were present in New Zealand at the time, he was very well-liked by everyone. Pompallier established 12 mission sites around New Zealand and enlisted the aid of many brothers and sisters to carry out his tasks. Overall, he had a significant impact on the development of the catholic religion in New Zealand.

The 1860 land battles had a negative impact on the sisters of mercy's relationship with Māori people, which had a tremendous impact on them in many ways. Due to the land wars, the Māori people lost faith in the sisters of Mercy. As a result of the Māori women and children that were fleeing Auckland to support their families who were fighting in the wars, the sisters of mercy were left with less work and labour. The Mercy Sisters were now without a job. Their first motivation for journeying so far to New Zealand was to practice the way of kindness, but they lacked any Māori women or kids to care for and educate. The sisters of mercy started to experience pressure from the settlers, who at the time would have included families and children from Europe. Instead of the Māori women and children, the sisters of mercy started instructing children from other countries that had travelled over to New Zealand with their families. The sisters of mercy did not care what you believed in they were willing to teach anyone.

The Mercy hospice cares for people with diverse needs. They care for those at home, in rest homes and people that need hospital level care. They care for not only the patient's physical needs but also their mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. The mercy hospice not only cares for the patients but also, the families and friends of the patients. They offer whanau support programs. Some of these programs are Counselling, Bereavement support, social support, advocacy, education & liaison Facilitation of residential care. these programs help families that are struggling with the loss or the new change to feel supported and safe within the Mercy hospice.

Bibliography

[Our Services \(sistersofmercywiri.org.nz\)](https://www.sistersofmercywiri.org.nz/)

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