

My name is Ms Hale, and I love to pray.

If I must confess, I think I pray 6 times a day sometimes, with the help of my classes prayers. Over the past term, I have prayed for the environment, illness, friendships, war and a range of social inequalities.

And I'll tell you what, all this praying got me thinking. Do we take adequate time to pray for our Academy community? Do we take a moment to be grateful for our rich history and set intentions for our actions in the future? How are we using prayer to enrich our personal lives and set higher expectations for ourselves?

So, With Sr Mary's blessing, one too many cups of tea, and a deep dive into the lives of Catherine McAuley & Ursula Frayne, I set out to create a prayer that acknowledges where we started as a community and what we strive to achieve carrying on that legacy into the future.

My year 8 religion class asked me something profound recently, something that I feared

I lacked an adequate answer to,

'Ms. Hale, how can you commit yourself to faith for life?'

I tried to redirect back to the question on what would happen if a Nun won the lottery, but bless them they were persistent, so Year 8 Blue I think I might have the start of an answer for you today.

I think it is moments such as this, when you feel a call to share your faith with others, when you feel compelled or almost overwhelmed if you do not follow your faith. I needed to put into action something special, I needed to acknowledge this opportunity to boost not just my own but all of our faith through a prayer that reflected us all, students, staff and families of the Academy community.

Faith is a verb, it is something you must actively choose to express, a muscle which must be exercised to grow and flourish further. This prayer is an invitation for us all to remind ourselves to put our faith into action, flex our metaphorical faith biceps and to remember the call both Catherine & Ursula instilled into our community.

So, it is my privilege today to share with you what I created. I hope you can find a piece of yourself

within this prayer and feel the power of the community which it represents.

I ask that at the end of the prayer, you recite the three sections in italics, as a call and response.

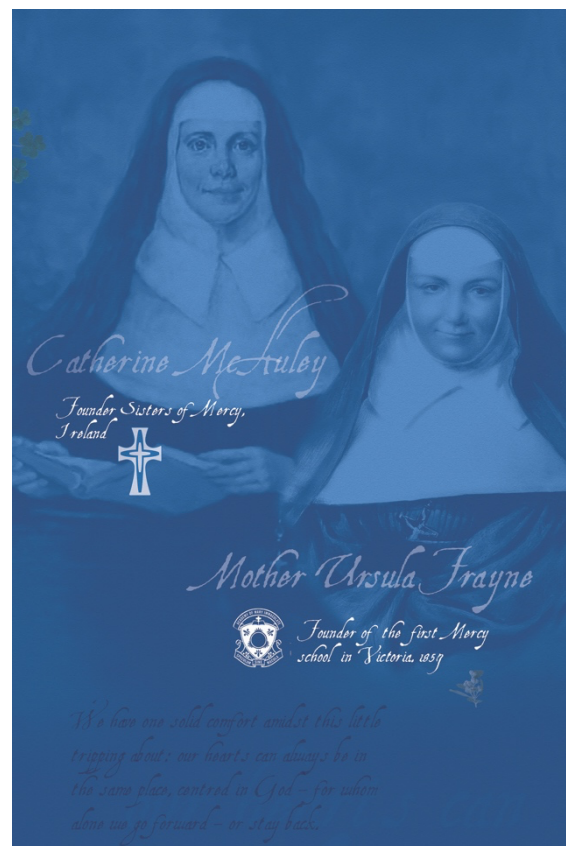
In the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit,

Loving God,

We give thanks for the unique gifts you have bestowed on each of us and are grateful for the rich learning opportunities you offer to us each day.

Jesus, we thank you for calling us to be people of hope and welcome, united in our service of others. Remind us that our simple everyday gestures are what shape a better world and as we go forth today, we pray that our mercy values are lived in all our actions.

May we continue to follow in the footsteps of our foundress':



Catherine McAuley: *Lead us*
Ursula Frayne: *Inspire us*
So we live every day, *in Mercy*

Amen.