

Catholic School Culture

Mercy Feast Day

The 24th September was the Feast Day for Our Lady of Mercy. The children from Mercy (blue) House celebrated this feast day at school today. The house captains led a prayer and then the children had treats in the Big Room. As the Mother of Jesus, our Merciful Redeemer, Our Lady is rightly named Mother of Mercy. The origin of this feast day dates back to the Middle Ages and the foundation of the Order of Our Lady of Mercy after Our Blessed Mother appeared to a young nobleman in France. Responding to her appeal for compassion and mercy for the men, women and children who were taken as prisoners from Europe to Africa as slaves by the Moors, Saint Peter Nolasco set out to redeem these people. He and his companions dedicated their lives and possessions to gathering alms to free them from their cruel captors. These slaves would otherwise have been forced to deny their faith. Protecting the faith of the captives who were persecuted because of their Christianity was the main objective of the heroic priests of Our Lady of Mercy who even offered and gave their own lives as ransom when there was not enough money. As their numbers grew, some of the priests extended their works of Mercy to include missionary work. Their work now has been expanded to those exposed to the dangers of denying their faith, the social, political and psychological forms of captivity in today's world.

Our Lady of Mercy Prayer

Holy Mary, help the miserable, strengthen the discouraged, comfort the sorrowful, pray for your people, plead for the clergy, intercede for all women consecrated to God. May all who venerate you feel now your help and protection. Be ready to help us when we pray, and bring back to us the answers to our prayers. Make it your continual concern to pray for the people of God, for you were blessed by God and were made worthy to bear the Redeemer of the world, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

