OUR MISSION
TO ENSURE THAT ALL THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO NEED PALLIATIVE CARE RECEIVE IT WITH THE UTMOST PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND RESPECT.

HISTORY
In 1952 a Hospice for the Dying was opened by Auckland’s Mater Misericordiae (later Mercy) Hospital. The previous year in 1951 the building was extended to accommodate 39 beds and was renamed the Mary Agnes Wards for the Care of the Aged and Dying. Following the closure of Mater Maternity in 1979 the St Joseph’s Unit of Continuing Care was established as one of New Zealand’s first modern hospices.

In 2007 the renamed Mercy Hospice Auckland moved to its present site on College Hill into a building which had begun in 1952 as a novitiate for the Sisters of Mercy and later served as a boarding hostel for students attending St Mary’s College nearby.

The building was opened by Prime Minister Helen Clark and blessed by Bishop Pat Dunn on March 18, 2007. The first-floor 15-bed inpatient unit retains the name of St Joseph’s.

Today Mercy Hospice Auckland cares for people facing life-threatening illnesses in the ADHB region. Currently 900 patients are cared for each year by hospice staff who also make 10,000 home visits annually.

SISTERS OF MERCY
Sisters of Mercy work in various capacities including Kathy Lynch who works as a clinical nurse specialist in our inpatient unit.

Sisters Patricia Rowe and Judith Leydon are both directors on the board of Mercy Healthcare which provides governance of the hospice.

Sister Patrice Lowell, from St Mary’s Convent, has worked for several years as a volunteer at the Mercy Hospice Shop in Ponsonby Road. Opened in 2005, the shop is one of seven which currently operate throughout Auckland raising valuable funds for Mercy Hospice’s operational costs. Each shop is run by an experienced retail manager and supported by a team of dedicated volunteers.
THE FOUNDING PHILOSOPHY OF MERCY HOSPICE AUCKLAND

The healthcare services of the Sisters of Mercy seek to continue the healing ministry of Jesus, expressing God's love and the vision of Catherine McAuley especially to those who are vulnerable through age or illness.

Mercy healthcare believes that life is sacred and should be cared for at every stage, from its beginning until death. Mercy healthcare recognises health as the promotion of quality of life for all and not simply the absence of pain and suffering. It strives to assist all in our care to take responsibility for their own health.

Mercy encourages all who are involved in any capacity in our healthcare services to be informed of and committed to the healthcare philosophy of Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand and our Code of Ethics.

SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS

March 18 is observed as the anniversary of the official opening of Mercy Hospice Auckland. March 19 is kept as the feast-day of our patron saint St Joseph.

April 9 is remembered as the anniversary of the arrival from Ireland of the first Sisters of Mercy in New Zealand.

September 24 is Mercy Day, recalling the opening of Catherine McAuley’s first House of Mercy in Dublin in 1827. Special events mark September as Mercy Month.

December 12 is Foundation Day, honouring the founding of the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831 and of the New Zealand Congregation in 2005 when sisters of four historic foundations in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin agreed to become one.

An annual ceremony is held close to Foundation Day when long-service awards are presented to staff and volunteers.

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Our logo shows the Mercy cross within a stylised koru the unfolding tip of the indigenous New Zealand fern a symbol of nature’s power to renew itself and regenerate in conditions favourable to growth. The logo also carries the hospice’s Māori name, Te Korowai Atawhai. This was adopted in 2003 to reflect our ongoing commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to a service in which the principles of the Treaty are honoured and upheld. Korowai is the Māori word for cloak a symbol of care and a reminder of Mercy’s founder Catherine McAuley who used her own shawl to protect the poor and vulnerable.

PROCESSES IN PLACE TO HELP STAFF TO KNOW THE HOSPICE’S CORE VALUES

A comprehensive Induction Guide has been developed to introduce new staff to Mercy Hospice Auckland and to help them to learn more about their role. The 47-page document includes information on the hospice’s mission and values, and on the history of the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland and New Zealand.

Mission and values also feature in the 25-hour training course which is provided for all volunteers—numbering at present more than 500—before they begin their work.

Mercy Hospice Auckland has a Mission, Emotional Safety and Social Group which works to ensure that Mercy mission and values are integrated in the facility’s daily life. It also provides a forum for emotional safety and well-being for all staff. Members are co-opted and represent a cross-section of the workforce both staff and volunteers.

www.mercyhospice.org.nz