



SOCIAL INCLUSION STATEMENT

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES – A PLACE OF WELCOME FOR ALL

Mary Aikenhead Ministries, inclusive of the education and health sectors which stand as the embodiment of our charism inherited from the Sisters of Charity, is a safe place of welcome for all.

We joyfully welcome all people because of who they are and because of who we are.

Mary Aikenhead Ministries is a ministry of the Catholic Church which is committed to unity with the human family in a way that honours the human person and their intrinsic dignity. Consistent with Ignatian Spirituality which has been a core part of the spirituality of the Sisters of Charity since their founding, we believe that God is found in all people and in all things.

We seek to be with others, to accompany in solidarity each person, most especially those who are vulnerable, recognising their inherent human dignity. At the heart of our ministry, we welcome all because we believe that all are sacred.¹ With that as a foundational tenet of our ministry, we strive to be open, compassionate, safe and welcoming to all.

We live in a common home and share our earth, believing that all people should have equal access to resources for survival and comfort. We are bound in a connectedness to others, regardless of proximity, time and place.² We walk with all people, and believe we are one global community.³

We acknowledge we live in a world that is complex and imperfect. We know that people both individually and communally suffer, are marginalised, and are hurting. These sorrows are ours too.⁴ We hope the work of our ministries will overcome the separateness we feel. That as works of the Church, we are able to break down barriers of exclusion and build up communities and people that they may thrive in relationship with others.⁵

Consistent with the life of Venerable Mary Aikenhead herself⁶, Mary Aikenhead Ministries is a place of welcome and inclusion for all people. We are committed to expressing her wisdom, faith and courage so that the ministries which bear her name continue to bring love, acceptance, connection and understanding to a world that is yearning for these gifts of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Genesis 1:27

² Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship* (2020), no. 2.

³ Francis, *Laudato si': On Care for our Common Home* (2015), no. 91.

⁴ Vatican II Council, *Gaudium et Spes: The Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World*, (1965), no. 1.

⁵ Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, no. 276.

⁶ Religious Sisters of Charity, *Everyday Wisdom of Mary Aikenhead*, (Ireland: Veritas Publications, 2007), 99, 169.