



Mercy Heritage Centre, All Hallows' Convent

Acknowledgement: Mercy Heritage Centre



Catherine McAuley, Green Parlour

Acknowledgement: Bruce Cowell Photography



Saints and Relics, Instruction Room

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Mercy Heritage Centre
All Hallows' Convent
547 Ann Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

P: 07 3831 2252

F: 07 3839 2107

E: peter@mercyheritage.com

W: www.mercyheritage.com

Hours: Monday AND Friday 9am - 4pm or by appointment

Contact: Peter Connell, Director

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Mercy Heritage Centre.

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Museum

- MHC has an extraordinary collection of religious relics- the remains of saints kept in 'reliquary'. These may be 1st class (skin and bones); 2nd class (clothing; instruments of torture); 3rd class (touched to one of the above classes). For example a locket reliquary and certificate of authenticity (1844) associated with Mother Vincent Whitty, Foundress of Brisbane, contains relics of some of the Apostles. The reliquary of the martyred St Fausta, c300AD, includes the wax figure and lower jaw of the saint.

Our Profile

Step into the atmospheric Mercy Heritage Centre and explore the life and work of the Sisters of Mercy in one of Brisbane's oldest surviving buildings. The core of the existing building, Adderton, was built in 1858 by John Petrie for Dr George Fullerton.

Purchased as the first permanent home of the Sisters of Mercy in Queensland, Adderton was renamed Convent of Our Lady of Mercy, All Hallows', on 1 November 1863. It was the Mother House of the Brisbane Congregation, and the base for a broad network of health, education, and social welfare programs throughout the state. With extensions to the original building in 1891, 1913, and 1919, it remained a major residence of the Sisters of Mercy until 2007. Visitors now have the unique opportunity to explore this historic residence, gaining insights into the Sisters of Mercy daily life through intimate encounters of the nun's living conditions and instructional training.

The Sisters of Mercy are a group of women religious, dedicated to serving the poor, sick and uneducated. The order began in Ireland in 1831, and the Brisbane group was founded shortly after Queensland's separation from New South Wales. The mission of the Mercy Heritage Centre is to continue the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy through interactive and educational exhibitions, demonstrations and guided tours. Revealed is the full breadth and depth of the rich and diverse history of the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane. The Mercy Heritage Centre also reveals the origins of the Mercy Order and its key ministries, the All Hallows' School and rare aspects of Catholicism. In addition visitors can discover the different layers of the building's history, the magnificent Chapel and an extensive and diverse collection of religious relics.

Coinciding with the Sisters of Mercy 150 years in 2011, Mercy Heritage Centre will finalise its expansion across both floors of the museum incorporating 26 new exhibitions.

Visitors can uncover stories of the lives lived in this incredible place as well as enjoying unparalleled views overlooking the Story Bridge and the Brisbane River from the verandahs of this unique cultural setting.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Education Kits

The Reviewers have been invaluable in guiding us through the process of the development of an education kit brief, finding appropriate contacts, and setting a timeline, with the aim of implementing education kits for our new exhibitions.

Rethinking our Museum's Promotion

Our Reviewers enabled us to refocus on the amazing museum we work in – this has allowed us to take a step back, rethink, and develop different marketing and communications strategies.