



## **A Chronology of Catherine McAuley's Life**

### ***September 29, 1778***

Catherine Elizabeth McAuley is born of Catholic parents in Dublin. Though the exact year of her birth cannot be verified, it is general practice to use 1778. Her sister Mary may have been born in 1781 or earlier.

### ***April 26, 1783***

Birth of CMcA's brother, James William.

### ***July 18, 1783***

Her father, James McCauley, makes his will and dies shortly afterwards.

### ***1798***

Death of CMcA's mother, Elinor Conway McAuley.

### ***1801***

CMcA moves in with Protestant relatives, the Armstrongs.

### ***1803***

She moves into the home of a Protestant couple, William and Catherine Callaghan on Mary Street, Dublin as household manager and companion to Catherine Callaghan. Later in the year she moves with the Callaghans to Coolock House, a twenty-two acre estate northeast of Dublin.

### ***August 18, 1804***

CMcA's sister, Mary McAuley, marries Dr. William Montgomery Macauley, a Protestant apothecary.

### ***October 3, 1819***

Death of Catherine Callaghan

### ***1821***

CMcA's brother, Dr. James McAuley, a surgeon and now a Protestant, marries Frances Ridgeway.

### ***January 27, 1822***

William Callaghan signs his last will and a codicil designating CMcA as his sole residuary legatee.

**August 9, 1822**

Death of Ann Conway Byrn, CMcA's cousin. CMcA adopts ten year old Catherine Byrn, having adopted the baby, Teresa Byrn, in 1821.

**November 10, 1822**

Death of William Callaghan.

**May 11, 1823**

Dr. Daniel Murray becomes archbishop of Dublin.

**c. 1823 – 1824**

William Callaghan's will is finally settled.

**June 22, 1824**

CMcA leases property on Baggot Street in southeast Dublin to build a house to serve poor women and children.

**July 1824**

Dr. Michael Blake, a parish priest of Saints Michael and Joh's and CMcA's friend, lays the first stone for the house.

**August 11, 1837**

Burial of Mary McAuley Macauley, CMcA's sister. She leaves five children: Mary, James, Robert, Catherine and William, aged sixteen to five.

**September 24, 1827**

Feast of our Lady of Mercy: the House on Baggot Street opens as a school for poor young girls and a residence for homeless girls and women. Anna Maria Doyle and Catherine Byrn move in and begin these works of mercy.

**May 15, 1828**

Death of Edward Armstrong, a priest of Dublin and CMcA's close friend and spiritual director in relation to the project.

**May or June 1828**

CMcA moves into Baggot Street with Teresa Byrn, age seven.

**June 22, 1828**

Frances Warde becomes a resident member.

**September 10, 1828**

CMcA explains that Baggot Street is a place devoted to "the daily education of hundreds of poor female children and the instruction of young women who sleep in the house" (Letter 6).

**September 15, 1828**

CMcA sells Coolock House

***September 24, 1828***

Daniel Murray gives permission for the House on Baggot Street to be called “of our Lady of Mercy.”

***November 22, 1828***

Daniel Murray received Mary McAuley, CMcA’s niece, into the Catholic Church, and permits the community to visit the sick in their homes and hospitals.

***January 25, 1829***

Death of CMcA’s brother-in-law, Dr William Macauley. Each of his five children chooses her as legal guardian. She is now the adoptive mother of nine, including Catherine and Teresa Byrn, Ellen Corrigan, an orphan, and Ann Rice, a homeless child.

***March 2, 1829***

CMcA registers her nephews – James, Robert and William Macauley – as boarders at Carlow College.

***April 8, 1829***

She establishes the Baggot Street Trust, which assigns the House of Mercy to Daniel Murray should she and her associates cease to fulfil the purposes for the House.

***June 4, 1829***

Dr. Murray dedicates the chapel in the House and opens it to the public, the funds generated from Sunday collections to be used to support the women and girls sheltered there. He assigns Daniel Burke, OSF, as chaplain to the House of Mercy, and Redmond O’Hanlon, ODC, as confessor to the community.

***September 8, 1829***

Margaret Dunne joins the community.

***November 22, 1829***

CMcA’s niece, Mary Macauley, joins the community.

***November 30, 1829***

Elizabeth Harley joins the community.

***Early 1830***

In the midst of clerical and lay criticism, CMcA and her associates decide, against her earlier judgement, to found an unenclosed religious congregation of women dedicated to the service of the poor, sick, and ignorant.

***June 10, 1830***

Georgiana Moor joins the community.

***July 12, 1830***

Mary Anne Delany joins the community.

***September 8, 1830***

As preparation for founding the Sisters of Mercy, CMcA, Anna Maria Doyle, and Elizabeth Harley enter the Presentation Sisters at George's Hill, Dublin and begin their novitiate on December 9, 1830.

***June 28, 1831***

Death of Caroline Murphy at Baggot Street. She is buried in the Carmelite vault at Saint Teresa's Church, Clarendon Street, the first of thirteen Sisters of Mercy who will be buried there.

***December 12, 1831***

At George's Hill, CMcA and her two associates – now called in religion, Mary Ann Doyle and Mary Elizabeth Harley – each “vow perpetual poverty, chastity and obedience, and to preserve until the end of my life in the Congregation called the Sisters of Mercy, established for the Visitation of the Sick Poor and charitable instruction of poor females.” Thus they found the Sisters of Mercy.

***December 13, 1831***

Daniel Murray appoints CMcA the first superior.

***January 23, 1832***

Seven women at Baggot Street receive the habit of the Sisters of Mercy at the first reception ceremony; Mary Josephine (Catherine) Byrne, Mary Frances (Frances) Warde, Mary Angela (Margaret) Dunne, Mary Teresa (Mary) Macauley, Mary Clare (Georgiana) Moore, Mary Magdalen de Pazzi (Mary Anne) Delany, and Mary Agnes (Anna) Carroll. Mary Aloysius (Anne) O'Grady is also received on her deathbed.

***February 7, 1832***

Mary Aloysius O'Grady dies at Baggot Street.

***April 25, 1832***

Mary Elizabeth Harley dies at Baggot Street.

***March – December 1832***

Cholera epidemic in Dublin. At the Board of Health's request, CMcA and other sisters work for months, in shifts from 8.00am to 8.00pm in a cholera hospital set up on Townsend Street.

***June 10, 1832***

Anne Moore enters the community. She will receive the habit and the name Mary Elizabeth on October 8, 1832, and profess her vows on October 8, 1834.

***December 1, 1832***

Mary Josephine (Catherine) Byrn transfers to the Dominican Convent in Cabra.

***January 24, 1833***

Four women profess their vows at the first profession ceremony on Baggot Street: Mary Frances Warde, Mary Angela Dunne, Mary Clare Moore and Mary de Pazzi Delany.

**March 17, 1833**

Dr Michael Blake is consecrated bishop of Dromore. Walter Meyler succeeds him as parish priest of St. Andrew's.

**November 3, 1833**

CMcA's niece, Mary Teresa Macauley, professes her vows in a private ceremony.

**November 12, 1833**

Mary Teresa Macauley dies just after midnight.

**December 8, 1833**

CMcA sends to Rome two original chapters of the future Rule and Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy, and a petition for approbation of the Sisters of Mercy. These chapters – on the Visitation of the Sick and the Protection of Distressed Women – will be additions to the Rule and Constitutions of the Presentation Sisters, which CMcA will revise for the Sisters of Mercy.

**January 28, 1834**

CMcA's niece, Catherine Macauley, who had lived in Baggot Street since 1828 – 1829, enters the community. She will receive the habit and the name Mary Anne Agnes on July 3, 1834 and profess her vows on October 22, 1836.

**September 4, 1834**

Mary Carton enters the community at Baggot Street, as a lay sister. She will receive the habit and the name Teresa on July 1, 1835 and profess her vows on October 22, 1836.

**October 1834**

Dr. Walter Meyler decides to close the convent chapel to the public, thereby cutting off needed funds for the House of Mercy.

**March 24, 1835**

CMcA opens a branch house in Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire) as a place of convalescence for sick sisters at Baggot Street. She gives buildings on the property to create a school for the poor girls she sees "loitering about the roads." She will be subsequently charged with the entire cost of the renovation.

**April 21, 1836**

CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Tullamore, Ireland. Mary Ann Doyle is appointed superior.

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CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Charleville, Ireland. Mary Angela Dunn is named superior.

**February 5, 1837**

Anna Maria Harnett enters the community. She will receive the habit, taking the name Mary Vincent, on July 1, 1837 and profess her vows on October 24, 1838.

***April 11, 1837***

CMcA founds St. Leo's Convent of Mercy in Carlow, Ireland. Mary Frances Warde is appointed superior.

***July 6, 1837***

CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Cork. Mary Clare Moore is appointed superior.

***August 7, 1837***

CMcA's niece, Mary Anne Agnes (Catherine) Macauley, dies at Baggot Street.

***August 15, 1837***

CMcA's godchild, Teresa Byrn, who had been living at Baggot Street, enters the community. She will receive the habit and the name Mary Camilus on February 21, 1838, and profess her vows on May 4, 1841.

***Autumn 1837***

Daniel Burke, OSF, chaplain since 1829, resigns to accompany the new vicar apostolic of the Cape of Good Hope, Dr. Patrick Griffith. A disagreement begins between CMcA and Walter Meyler over appointment of a chaplain for the House of Mercy.

***November 1837***

In Kingstown CMcA falls and breaks her wrist.

***June 1838***

CMcA opens a branch house in Booterstown, as a possible replacement for the Kingstown convent.

***July 1838***

Receiving a legacy of £1000, CMcA decides to build a commercial laundry at Baggot Street, as income for the House of Mercy.

***September 24, 1838***

CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Limerick. Mary Elizabeth Moore is appointed superior.

***November 1838***

The community withdraws from Kingstown.

***December 1838***

CMcA's nephew, William (Willie) Macauley, goes to sea. She loses contact with him, and later presumes that he has died at sea.

***September 24, 1839***

A Convent of Mercy is established in Bermondsey. Mary Clare Moore is appointed temporary superior.

***Late 1839 – early 1840***

CMcA sends to Rome for final approval and papal confirmation the text of the Rule and Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy.

**January 4, 1840**

CMcA's nephew, Robert Macauley, dies of consumption.

**Mid-January 1840**

CMcA returns to Dublin and is "confined to bed" for two weeks.

**March 3, 1840**

Paul Gavino Secchi Murro, consultor of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, submits a positive report on the proposed Rule and Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy.

**March 6, 1840**

With Dr. Murray's permission, CMcA appoints Mary de Pazzi Delany, to be her assistant; Mary Aloysius Scott, bursar; and Mary Cecilia Marmion, mistress of novices.

**April 1840**

CMcA re-opens the house in Kingstown at Dr. Murray's request.

**Early May 1840**

CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Galway. Mary Teresa White is appointed superior.

**July 20, 1840**

In Rome, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith approves the Rule and Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy and later forwards its recommendation to Pope Gregory XVI.

**December 8, 1840**

The Carlow community founds a Convent of Mercy in Wexford. Mary Teresa Kelly is appointed superior.

**December 27, 1840**

CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Birr. Mary Aloysius Scott is appointed superior.

**March 31, 1841**

Fifty-two women and girls are crowded in the House of Mercy on Baggot Street at this time.

**April 12, 1841**

CMcA writes: "my old cough is tormenting me."

**April 29, 1841**

James Macauley, Catherine's eldest nephew, dies.

**May 16, 1841**

Frances Gibson enters the Baggot Street community for an eventual foundation in Liverpool (1843).

**June 6, 1841**

Gregory XVI confirms the Rule and Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy.

***June 14, 1841***

Mary Clare Moore returns to Baggot Street from Bermondsey, and a week later goes to Cork to resume the role of superior.

***July 5, 1841***

The decree of papal confirmation of the Rule is promulgated in Rome. Cardinal Frasoni sends this information to Dr. Murray on July 31, with copies of the approved text in Italian.

***August 19, 1841***

Four young women destined for the foundation in Birmingham profess their vows on this day, as does Mary Justina Fleming, who will die on December 10.

***August 20, 1841***

CMcA draws up her will. In the evening she and the founding party for Birmingham sail to Liverpool and proceed by rail to Birmingham.

***August 21, 1841***

CMcA founds a Convent of Mercy in Birmingham.

***September 6, 1841***

CMcA sends instructions to Teresa Carton at Baggot Street about preparing space for her in the infirmary.

***September 20, 1841***

She leaves Birmingham, arrives in Kingstown on the morning of September 21, and proceeds to Baggot Street.

***September 26, 1841***

She writes to Mary Aloysius Scott in Birr, saying she has seen Dr. William Stokes twice. He says her right lung is "diseased."

***October 12, 1841***

Writing to Frances Warde about "some evident mistakes in the copy of our Rule," CMcA adds "I have felt the last bad change in the weather very much."

***October 18, 1841***

She asks Charles Cavanagh to secure £20 bequeathed to her by Mrs Ryan.

***Late October 1841***

Unaware it has been received. CMcA again asks Mr. Cavanagh to secure the £20. This is apparently her last extant letter.

***c. October 29, 1841***

CMcA becomes bedridden. She is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis complicated by an abscess.



***November 8, 1841***

Redmond O'Hanlon anoints her on Monday night.

***November 11, 1841***

CMcA signs the codicil to her will. She is visited by her brother James, his wife Frances, Dr. William Stokes, and several priests, including Redmond O'Hanlon, Myles Gaffney, and Walter Meyler.

She asks Teresa Carton to "tell the Sisters to get a good cup of tea – I think the Community Room would be a good place – when I am gone, and to comfort one another, but God will comfort them" (Mary Vincent Whitty to Mary Cecilia Marmion, November 12, 1841).

Catherine McAuley dies, about ten minutes to eight in the evening.

***November 15, 1841***

After the Solemn Office and Requiem Mass, she is buried in the earth, like the poor, as she had wished.