

NEW COMMUNITY LEADER COMMISSIONED

On the first weekend of March, the Institute's four new Community Leaders were commissioned in their new roles. A Ritual of Commissioning was held in Ballarat to commission Christina Aitken RSM (South B).

The ritual appropriately began with the hymn 'The Summons', as Christina has answered a call to move into her new community from another part of the Institute.

'Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?', 'Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?'



The hymn was followed by a reading from Jeremiah 29: 11-14 – 'For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope'.



As a sign of completion of her role, Berenice Kerr, the outgoing Community Leader, were asked to hand a symbol of the community to the new Community Leader. Berenice handed Christina a mug with a bee on it, representing 'South Bee'!

Christina was also presented with the Chapter candle as a sign of their acceptance of the role of Community Leader, with the knowledge that they have the support of the sisters gathered and all sisters who are part of the Institute.

In response, Christina affirmed her acceptance of the role and asked 'that you, my sisters, engage with me in strengthening the bonds of unity among us for the life of the world.

The sisters prayed that 'this time of leadership be a blessing for you, awakening and confirming the gifts God calls forth in you and in our Institute'.

The ritual ended with the singing of 'We are Called' –

*"We are called to act with justice.
We are called to love tenderly.
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God"*.

Following the ritual, refreshments were held and the sisters had an opportunity to meet their new Community Leader if they hadn't already.



Article first appeared on Just Mercy - <https://institute.mercy.org.au/news-centre/just-mercy/>

Top: Eveline Crotty RSM and Christina Aitken RSM

Middle: Handover of keys – Christina Aitken RSM, Berenice Kerr RSM, Eveline Crotty RSM and Elizabeth Moloney RSM

Bottom: Gathering together