

NEED IS OUR CLOISTER

From the Annals of Tullamore, Sister Mary Ann Doyle recalls life in Ireland in the late 1830s.

‘This was a severe winter for the poor. They suffered intensely from cold, hunger and disease... The Sisters did not spare themselves... By their visitation of the sick, a great number of adults were discovered who had never received the strengthening grace of the Sacrament and who were encouraged by the Sisters to make the necessary preparation for it. Many converts too appeared at this time, on one day no less than fourteen were received into the Church- such would remind one of the wonders of the First Pentecost...’

Sister Mary Clare Agnew sketched Mercy life in Ireland in the days of Catherine McAuley



- 1 What do you see in this picture?
- 2 How much can we tell from the expressions on the listeners' faces?
- 3 What might they be hearing for the first time?



- 4 *What can we tell about this family's situation, and what kinds of help are they receiving?*
- 5 *How much has need changed over the intervening two hundred years?*
- 6 *What is our heart saying to us?*

Notes