



JUSTICE **FREEDOM** SINCERITY TRUTH JOY



What does
Freedom
mean to
me?



Name a Song about Freedom?

Katie Melua - Maybe I Dreamt It

You've shown me freedom
Courage for all
You spoke of new words
And moved us on
Took my heart and lifted it
To the stars, to the sky...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQc2MloZDKI>



What Poems do you know
about Freedom?



John O'Donohue, *For Freedom*

- As a bird soars high
In the free holding of the wind,
Clear of the certainty of the
ground,
Opening the imagination of
wind.
Into the grace of emptiness,
May your life awaken
To the call of its freedom...

A Reflection about Freedom

What gives us personality?
What encourages conversation?
What helps you to be comfortable
Yet allows for exploration?
What makes us unique?
What gives us a choice?
What allows us to be quiet
Or use the gift our voice?

Every decision is a fork in the road.
Each path that you take can be confidently strode.
Never let fear stop you
From doing the things you choose.
We regret the things we don't do
So what have we to lose.

What eats apprehension
To let our dreams be made?
What makes you step forward
To make bad times fade?

What brings us to life?
What allows us to see?
What's the ultimate attribute?
It is that we are free.

FREE || MS MOEM.



What Pictures represent
Freedom?



The Statue of Liberty

Freedom in the Bible

- Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17)
- And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32)
- Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. (Psalm 118:5)
- *Freely, Freely, You Have Received*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo3MGpcBC5M>



The Paradox of Christian Freedom

- Jesus came to set us free. From what? The kind of freedom Ignatian spirituality preaches is freedom from any fears or attachments that inhibit our human flourishing.
- See Andy Otto, *The Paradox of Christian Freedom*
- <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/the-paradox-of-christian-freedom/>





Mary Ward and Freedom

- Mary Ward's understanding of Freedom was grounded in her sense of a personal relationship with God. She believed that each person has free and open access to God and can find God in the ordinary experiences of each day. This is an inner freedom, accepting of self, open to others and the world, and trusting of life. It acknowledges that personal liberation is essential to human flourishing.
- <https://www.loreto.org.au/spirituality/charism-values/>
- Mary Ward's experience of the closeness of God re-echoes Jeremiah 29:
- *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*



Freedom to flourish...

- Mary Ward believed in freedom for all.
- Her work, in particular, for the education of girls paved the way for freedom for women to flourish and contribute to society in ways previously closed to them.

What did
Mary Ward
say about
Freedom?



Grounded in the virtues of freedom, justice and sincerity, we shall gain
God's gift of true wisdom (...and all that you need) (Mary Ward in 1615)





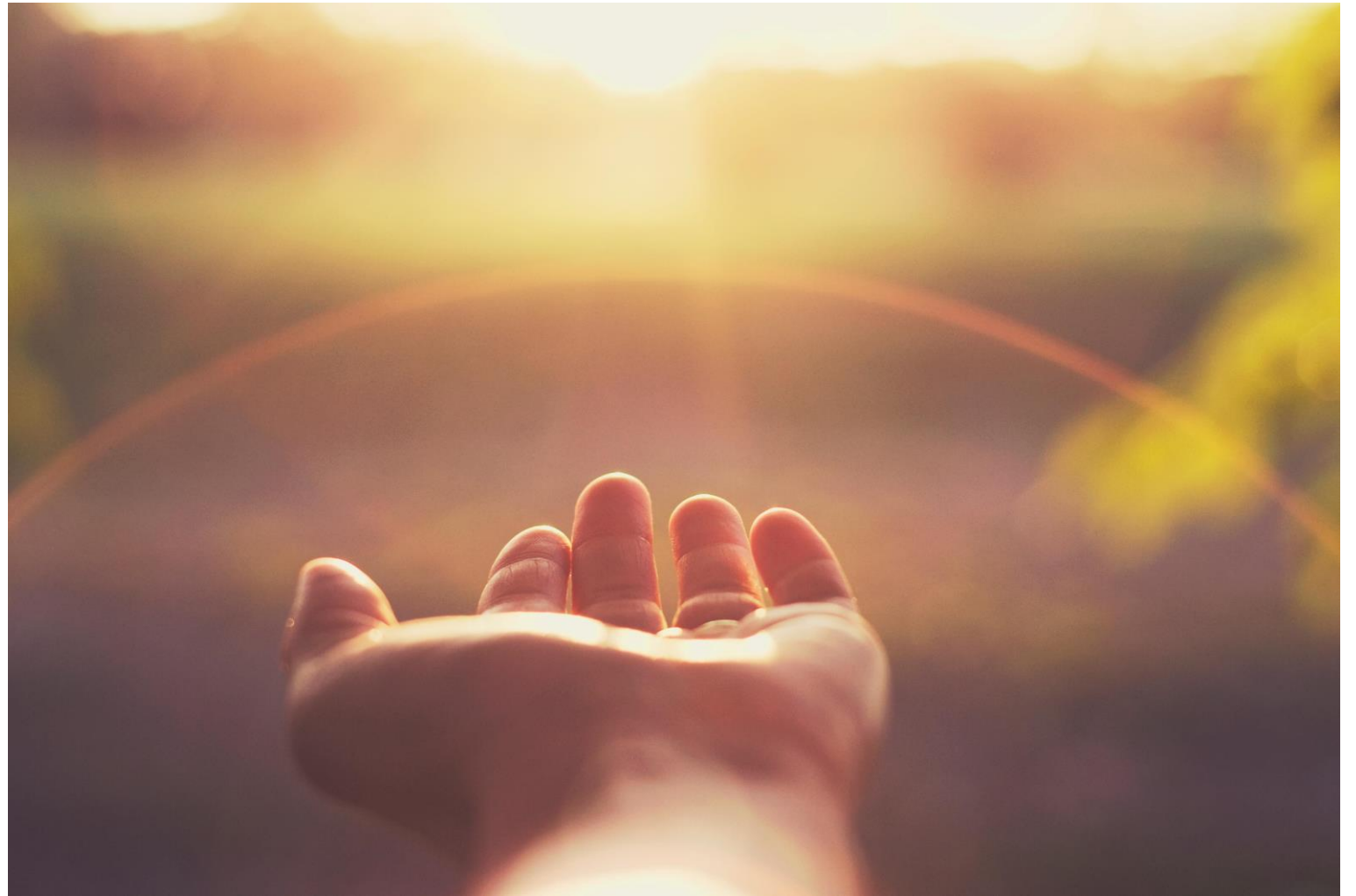
I will do these things with
love and freedom or leave
them alone. (Mary Ward).



Freedom to refer all to God. (Mary Ward).

Love brings freedom...

Act not out of fear
but solely from
love, because we
are called by God
to a vocation of
love. (Mary Ward).



The freedom to truly be
yourself...

Be as you
appear and
appear as you
are.
(Mary Ward).



Act not out of
fear but
solely out of
love.
(Mary Ward).

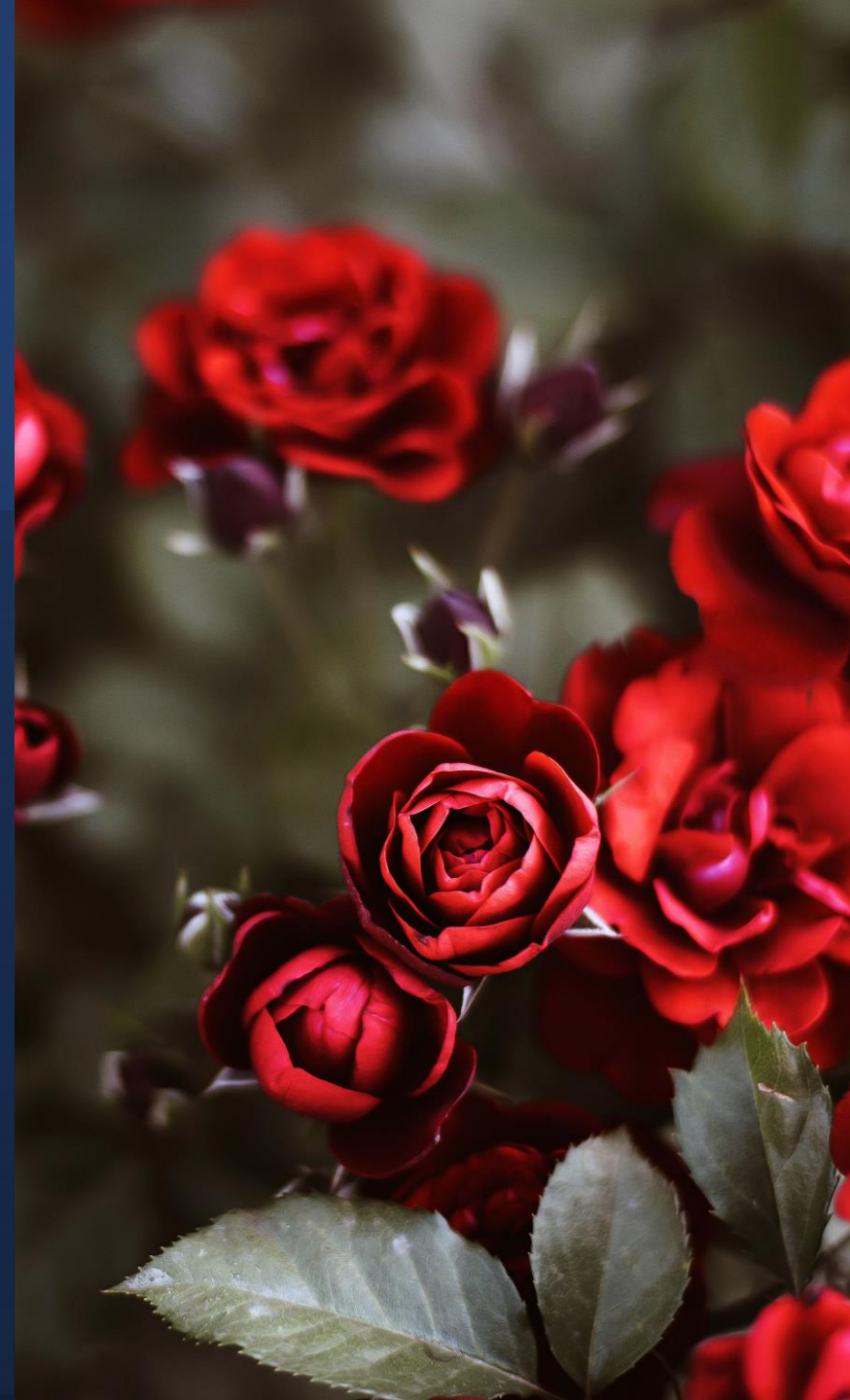





Serve God with great
love and freedom of
heart. (Mary Ward).

A Deep connection between love and
freedom

Cherish God's vocation in
you. Let it be constant,
efficacious and loving.
(Mary Ward, 1645)

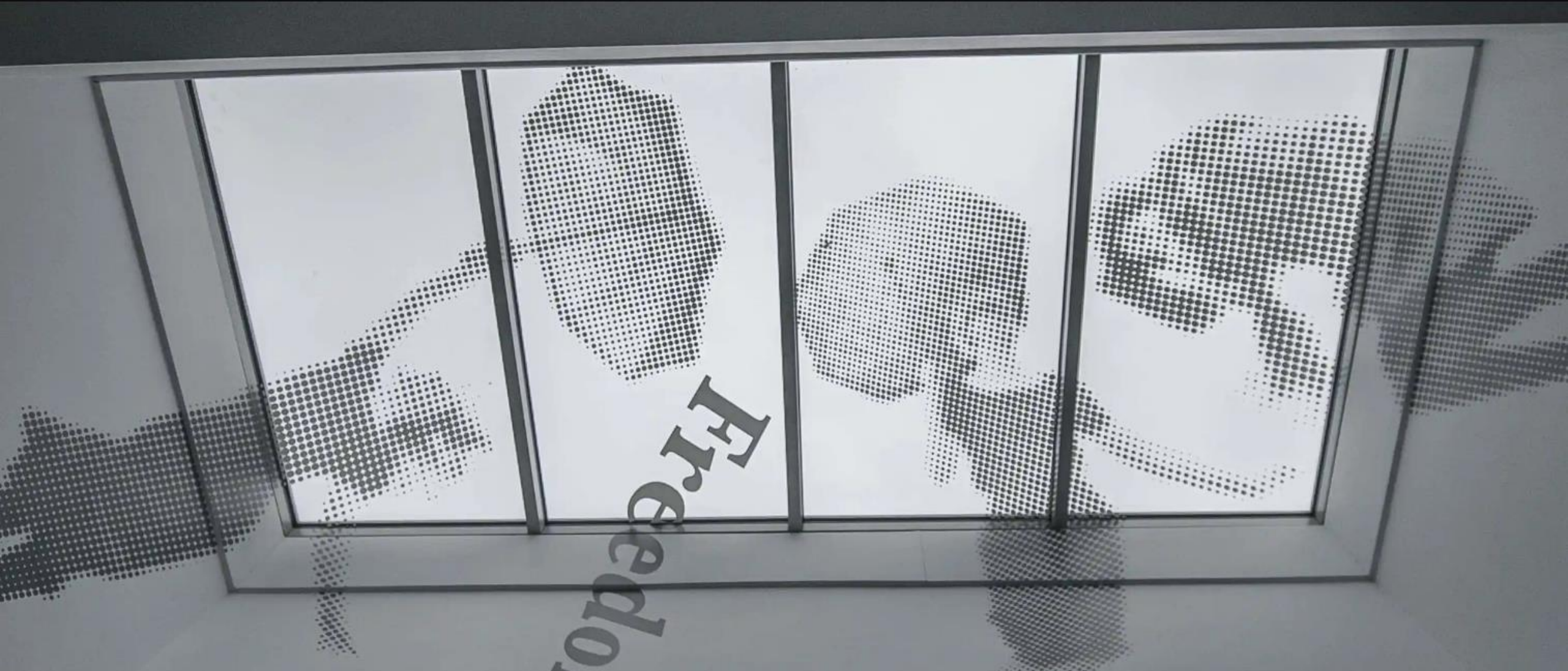




Work with great
tranquility, joy and
magnanimity, for what is
not done in one year can
be done in another.
(Mary Ward, 1629).







<https://i0.wp.com/loretokk.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Mary-Ward-Freedom.jpg?ssl=1>

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Love and Freedom

- She lived with a true inner freedom. Even when challenged by the church she loved, she never wavered from her vision. Knowing the great gift of God's love in her life, she assured her followers that their 'greatness and strength consists in this, that [they] have free and open access to God'.
- Mary Ward's experience of the closeness of God re-echoes Jeremiah 29:
- *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*



Freedom and Trust

- 'I will do these things with love and freedom or leave them alone'. From experience, Mary Ward came to define freedom as one of the key characteristics of her followers--that freedom of spirit 'to refer all to God'. (Deirdre Rofe IBVM)
- The freedom to trust God



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- In fact, while her spiritual insights confirmed her in the basic direction of her mission, all too often they brought her into a more radical confrontation with herself and with church authorities. Her journey into freedom was accomplished in a paradoxical fashion.



Trust and Love bring Freedom

- All types of people responded to her courteous, lively personality, seeing in her something of the freedom promised to the children of God. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the spirituality of the Church is this very quality--that trust in the providence of God which liberates one to love God, to love others and to love life with 'a cheerful mind'. (Deirdre Rofe IBVM).



Freedom to “find God in all aspects of life.”

- Mary Ward’s freedom is a very distinct one.
- Meister Eckhart, a Flemish mystic who lived from 1260 to 1328, once said that “God is always at home; it is we who have gone out for a walk”.
- Well, it is when we have “gone out for a walk” that we lose the freedom to refer all to God, to truly trust God. This is a freedom that does not limit encounter to God to some special or “holy” space – for example Mass in church on Sundays - but is open to the encounter with God everywhere and in all aspects of our lives. It is a freedom that opens us a deep generosity to others as well as to God. A freedom that opens us to thinking of others more. A freedom that leads to right relationship. A freedom that leads to Justice. (Jane Livesey CJ).

Adapted from Karl Rahner

*One does not
enter a temple—
a shrine
that encloses the holy
and cuts it off
from a godless and secular world
that remains outside.*

*This entire world belongs to God,
who is adored, experienced, and accepted everywhere
as the one who, through grace, has set all things free
to come to share his life.*

*This adoration takes place not in Jerusalem alone
but everywhere in spirit and truth.*

