

Programme for the Day of Reflection at Stratherrick

10.00am – Tea and coffee in the house

10.30am – Introduction to the Day / Talk 1

11.00am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and
Adoration; Rosary; opportunities for the
Sacrament of Confession

12.00pm – Angelus; Holy Mass

1.00pm – Lunch; opportunity to pray the Stations of the
Cross (inside or outside), or walk to the shrine
of Our Lady of the Highlands

2.30pm – Talk 2

3.00pm – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Divine Mercy
Prayers; Adoration

4.00pm – Benediction; The Divine Praises; Reposition

Jubilee Year of Mercy

8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016



“Mary, Mother of Mercy” – 1

The Immaculate Conception

Stratherrick

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*

“My thoughts now turn to the Mother of Mercy. May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God’s tenderness. No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. The Mother of the Crucified and Risen One has entered the sanctuary of divine mercy because she participated intimately in the mystery of His love. *Chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God*, Mary, from the outset, was *prepared by the love of God to be the Ark of the Covenant between God and man*. She treasured divine mercy in her heart in perfect harmony with her Son Jesus. Her hymn of praise, sung at the threshold of the home of Elizabeth, was dedicated to the mercy of God which extends from “generation to generation” (Lk 1:50). We too were included in those prophetic words of the Virgin Mary. This will be a source of comfort and strength to us as we cross the threshold of the Holy Year to experience the fruits of divine mercy. *At the foot of the Cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus*. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. *Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception*. Let us address her in the words of the Salve Regina, a prayer ever ancient and ever new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes upon us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus” (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 24).

Mary as the Mother of Mercy

1. Through her Immaculate Conception, God made her the created masterpiece of His Mercy in the world.
2. Mary was the one chosen by God to be the Mother of our merciful Saviour, Mercy Incarnate; she literally brought Divine Mercy Himself to birth in our world.
3. She showed us the way to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. She set the shining example for us of true Christian discipleship.
4. From heaven, she continues to come to our aid with her intercessory prayers, nurturing and caring for all of our needs, and through her, Christ is born in us, giving us the opportunity to be sharers of God’s mercy to others.

Questions for Personal Reflection

- Do I pattern my life after the example of Mary, in her total dedication to fulfilling the will of God?
- Do people experience God’s mercy through me?
- How do I see others? Do I see them as Christ does? If not, why not?