

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!” You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Hymn (176)

Period of Prayer and Personal Reflection

Benediction

The Divine Praises

Reposition & Final Hymn (213)

RC Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust.
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Jubilee Year of Mercy

8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016



“Conversion: Beginning Our Journey of Mercy”

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 20 January 2016

“Conversion: Beginning Our Journey of Mercy”

Definitions

- *Convertere / conversio* – to turn (oneself) around.
- *Metanoia* = *meta* and *nous* – “beyond our mind”, to change our attitude.

Conversion as a Two-Step Process:

- ‘*Repent and believe the Good News.*’ (Mk 1:15)

Examples of Conversion in the Gospels:

- The Call of Matthew (Mt 9:9-13)
- The Samaritan Woman at the Well (Jn 4:5-26)

The Conversion of St Paul

- Writings of St Luke – Acts 9: 1-19; Acts 22: 3-21; Acts 26: 4-23
- Letters of Paul – Galatians 1:11-16



**Caravaggio, *The Conversion of St Paul* (1601)
Cerasi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome**

“Prior to meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus, he [Paul] dedicated his life to pursuing the justice of the law with zeal (cf. Phil 3:6). His conversion to Christ led him to turn that vision upside down, to the point that he would write to the Galatians: “We have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified” (2:16). Paul’s understanding of justice changes radically. He now places faith first, not justice. Salvation comes not through the observance of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, who in his death and resurrection brings salvation together with a mercy that justifies. God’s justice now becomes the liberating force for those oppressed by slavery to sin and its consequences. God’s justice is his mercy (cf. Ps 51:11-16).” [*Misericordiae Vultus*, 20]

Conversion as a Life-Long Journey: The Example of Simon Peter

- ‘Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.’ (Lk 5:8)
- ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ (Mt 16:16)
- ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’ (Jn 6:68)
- ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.’ (Mt 26:35)
- ‘I do not know the man.’ (Mt 26:70, 72, 74)
- ‘Yes Lord, you know I love you.’ (Jn 21:15, 16, 17)

Beginning each day with the Lord: The Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of our Blessed Mother Mary, I offer you all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your most Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of my family and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Beginning our Journey: Accepting Blame for our Faults and Failings

Pope Francis, Homily of 2 March 2015.

Questions for Personal Reflection

- Can you recall a moment(s) when you felt called to conversion?
- How did you react to this invitation? What changed in your life?
- How can you ensure a daily ‘re-conversion’, and live like Christ?