

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.

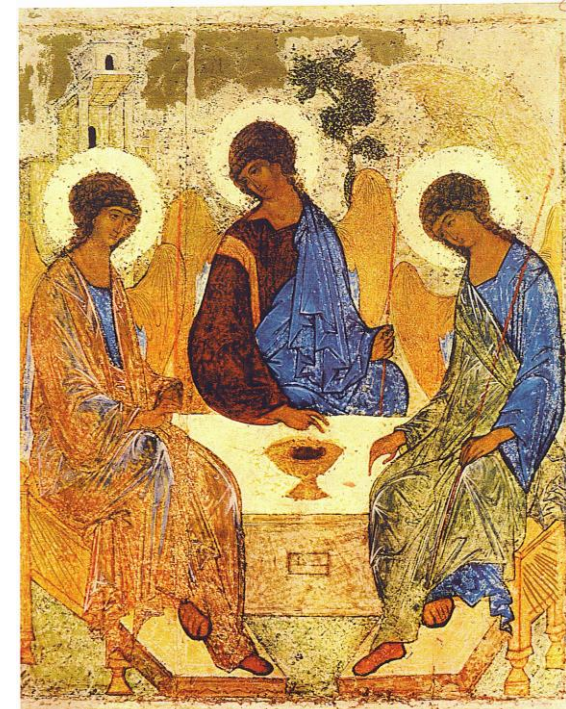
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Hymn
Period of Prayer and Personal Reflection
Benediction
The Divine Praises
Reposition & Final Hymn

RC Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust.
A registered Scottish Charity Number SC005122.



Jubilee Year of Mercy



Andrei Rublev, *The Trinity* (c. 1410),
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

“The Corporal Works of Mercy: Part 2”

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 27 April 2016

“The Corporal Works of Mercy: Part 2”

Matthew 25: 34-40

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. ***For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.*** Then the upright will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, ***“In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.***

To Welcome the Stranger

Genesis 18:1-8

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth, and said, “My lord, if I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds, and milk, and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

The Rule of St Benedict, 53: 1-6

Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, “I came as a guest, and you received Me” (Matt. 25:35). And to all let due honour be shown, especially to the domestics of the faith and to pilgrims. As soon as a guest is announced, therefore, let the Superior or the brethren meet him with all charitable service.

To Visit the Sick

First Apology of St Justin Martyr – The Weekly Worship of the Earliest Christians (67)

And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need.

James 5:14-15

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

To Visit the Imprisoned

“You could not leave to see me, so I have come to see you!”

– Pope John XXIII to the inmates of the Regina Caeli prison in Rome
(See British Pathé News Bulletin, 1959: <https://youtu.be/frybSA34XvA>)

To Bury the Dead

Tobit 1:17

I would give my bread to the hungry and my clothing to the naked; and if I saw any one of my people dead and thrown out behind the wall of Nineveh, I would bury him.

Conclusions

Sheer ‘ordinariness’ of the works of mercy

Romans 12:1 –

... present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

“Ten times a day you will go to serve a poor person, and ten times a day you will find God there.” (St Vincent de Paul)