

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

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Jubilee Year of Mercy



“The Spiritual Works of Mercy: Part 1”

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 25 May 2016

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|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Counsel the Doubtful | } | |
| 2. Instruct the Ignorant | } | 3 Works of Vigilance |
| 3. Admonish Sinners | } | |
| 4. Comfort the Afflicted | } | |
| 5. Forgive Offences | } | 3 Works of Reconciliation |
| 6. Bear Wrongs Patiently | } | |
| 7. Pray for the Living & the Dead | } | 1 Work of Covenant-Relationship |

1. Counsel the Doubtful

“Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Matthew 11:3)

“You will all fall away.” (Matthew 26:31).

“Credo ut intelligam” – ‘I believe that I may understand’ (St Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion*).

“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.” (John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, 1)

2. Instruct the Ignorant

The most urgent task today is “to lead people to discover both their capacity to know the truth and their yearning for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life” (John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, 102).

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“‘Knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up.” (1 Corinthians 8:1).

“‘Bring the book of the Law of Moses which the Lord God prescribed for Israel.’ He gathered them before the water gate and read from the Book from early morning until noon.” (Ne 8:1-12)

“... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.” (Jn 14:26).

3. Admonish Sinners

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church; and if he refuses to listen even to the Church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (Mt 18:15-17)

The Prophet Nathan rebukes King David (2 Sam 12:1-15)

Psalm 51: “Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness, | in your compassion blot out my offence”

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool” (Is 1:18).

“‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir’, she replied. ‘Neither do I condemn you’, said Jesus. ‘Go away, and don’t sin anymore.’” (Jn 8:1-11)

“Brothers, if one of you misbehaves, the more spiritual of you who set him right should do so in a spirit of gentleness, not forgetting that you may be tempted yourselves.” (Ga 6:1).

Questions for Reflection

- Which of these Spiritual Works of Mercy have you practised/do you practise in your own faith life? How do you feel after you have practised them?
- Do *you* need to ask our loving Lord for mercy? Imagine yourself in conversation with Jesus. Open your heart to him now, and let his healing love fill your heart with peace.