

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.
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Jubilee Year of Mercy



“The Spiritual Works of Mercy: Part 2”

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 1 June 2016

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4. Comfort the Afflicted

“because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted” (Heb 2:18)

“God comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.” (2 Cor 1:4-5)

“‘Console my people, console them’, says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, her sin is atoned for...’” (Is 40:1-2)

“And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd” (Mt 9:36)

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.” (Mt 11:28-30)

“God will wipe away every tear” (Rev. 7:17), for “neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev. 21:4)

5. Forgive Offences

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you: but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Mt 6:14-15).

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you.. love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..” (Mt 5:38-46).

“So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace. I will never tire of insisting that confessors be authentic signs of the Father’s mercy. (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 17).

6. Bear Wrongs Patiently

“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, / and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city” (Prv 16:32);

“Think of our Lord’s patience as your opportunity to be saved..” (2 Pt 3:13-15)

“You are God’s chosen race, his saints: he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.” (Col 3:12-13)

“it is a happy privilege to suffer trials.. you understand that your faith is only put to the test to make you patient, but patience too is to have its practical results so that you will become fully-developed, complete, with nothing missing” (Jm 1:2-4).

7. Pray for the Living and the Dead

“Whether we realise it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2560).

“We can be sure that there is no such thing as a superfluous or useless prayer. No prayer is lost.” (Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, 12 September 2012)

“Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you” (St Ignatius of Loyola, quoted in the *Catechism*, 2834).

“In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there” (Mk 1:35)

“Love—*caritas*—will always prove necessary, even in the most just society. There is no ordering of the State so just that it can eliminate the need for a service of love. Whoever wants to eliminate love is preparing to eliminate man as such. There will always be suffering which cries out for consolation and help. There will always be loneliness. There will always be situations of material need where help in the form of concrete love of neighbour is indispensable... The Church ... is alive with the love enkindled by the Spirit of Christ. This love does not simply offer people material help, but refreshment and care for their souls, something which often is even more necessary than material support. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, 28)