

The logo and motto for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

The *logo* and the *motto* together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38). The logo – the work of Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik – presents a small theological master-class on the theme of mercy. In fact, it represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his Incarnation, culminating in redemption for all. The logo has been designed to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity, and does so with a love that has the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so-called *mandorla* (or 'almond'), a shape that was quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colours progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker colour suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016



“The Year of Mercy: An Introduction”

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 11 November 2015

“The Year of Mercy: An Introduction”

- Why should we focus on the theme of mercy?
- What is mercy? Definitions and features
- When does the Year of Mercy begin?
- What is the significance of this date?
- The doors of mercy
- When does the Year of Mercy end?
- Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy
- The Church as the house of mercy

Documents

Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*

Pope John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*

Questions for Personal Reflection

- How *merciful* am I?
- Do I reveal God’s mercy in my own life – in my thoughts, or words, or actions?
- Can I identify any moments in my life when God has clearly turned His ‘merciful face’ towards me? How have I felt?
- What practical and spiritual steps could I take to deepen my relationship with God during this forthcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy?

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

Period of Prayer and Personal Reflection

Benediction

The Divine Praises

Reposition & Final Hymn