

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

8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016



***“Pope Francis:
The Pontiff of Mercy”***

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 18 November 2015

“Pope Francis: The Pontiff of Mercy”

- 17 December 1936: Born in Buenos Aires, to Italian immigrant parents.
- 1957: At age 21, falls gravely ill; pneumonia; right lung partially removed.
- 11 March 1958: Enters novitiate of the Society of Jesus.
- 12 March 1960: Takes first vows as a Jesuit.
- 1960: Studies humanities in Padre Hurtado, Chile.
- 1961-1963: Studies philosophy at San Miguel Seminary, Buenos Aires.
- 1964-1966: Teaches in Jesuit schools in Santa Fe and Buenos Aires.
- 1967-1970: Studies theology at San Miguel seminary.
- 13 December 1969: Ordained as a priest.
- 1970-1971: Spends ‘tertianship’ year of Jesuit formation in Spain.
- 1971-1973: Novice master and vice chancellor, San Miguel seminary.
- 1973: Takes perpetual profession as Jesuit.
- 1973-1979: Serves as superior of Jesuit province of Argentina and Uruguay.
- 1979-1985: Serves as rector of Colegio Maximo and theology teacher.
- 1986: Goes to Germany to finish doctoral thesis.
- 27 June 1992: Ordained auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires.
- 28 February 1998: Installed as archbishop of Buenos Aires.
- 21 February 2001: Elevated to cardinal.
- 2005: Receives second-highest number of votes in conclave that elected Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as pope.
- 2005-2011: Serves as president, Argentine Bishops Conference.
- 13 March 2013: Elected pope by conclave of 115 cardinals.

Recommended Reading

Austen Ivereigh, *Pope Francis: The Making of a Radical Pope* (New Edition: Allen & Unwin, 2015)

Paul Vallely, *Pope Francis: Untying the Knots: The Struggle for the Soul of Catholicism* (Revised and Expanded Edition, Bloomsbury Continuum, 2015)

Pope Francis, with Antonio Spadaro, SJ, *My Door is Always Open: A Conversation on Faith, Hope, and the Church in a Time of Change* (Continuum, 2014) [<http://americamagazine.org/pope-interview>]

Caravaggio, *The Calling of St Matthew* (1599-1600) Contarelli Chapel, San Luigi dei Francesi, Rome



As Jesus was walking on from there he saw a man called Matthew sitting by the customs house, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. While he was at dinner in the house it happened that a number of tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When he heard this he replied, “It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. Go and learn the meaning of the words: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.” (Mt 9:9-13)

Questions for Personal Reflection

- Have I ever felt the Lord calling me to follow him?
- How did it feel to be “chosen”? How did I respond?
- What might I do to deepen my own calling as a follower of Christ?