

## 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.

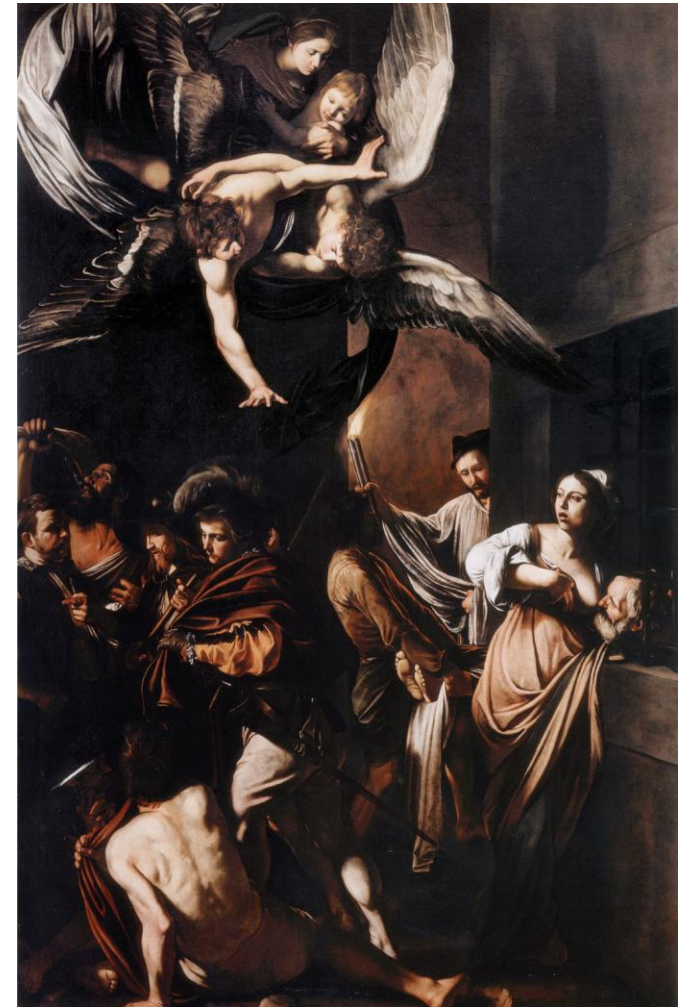
We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

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**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 Corporal Works of Mercy”*

St Columba's, Culloden  
Wednesday 20 April 2016

## ***“The Corporal Works of Mercy”***

### **Matthew 25: 31-46**

When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “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.”*** Then he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink, I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the upright to eternal life.

### **Bibliography**

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Fr Raniero Cantalamessa, *The Gaze of Mercy: A Commentary on Divine and Human Mercy* (Frederick, Maryland: The Word Among Us Press, 2015)  
Cardinal Walter Kasper, *Mercy* (New York: Paulist Press, 2014)  
Mitch Finley, *The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy: Living Christian Love and Compassion* (Liguori, Missouri: Liguori Publications, 2003)  
Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Dives in Misericordia* (1980)

## **The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy**

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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. To Feed the Hungry                            | 5. To Visit the Sick       |
| 2. To Give Drink to the Thirsty                  | 6. To Visit the Imprisoned |
| 3. To Clothe the Naked                           | 7. To Bury the Dead        |
| 4. To Welcome the Stranger/ Shelter the Homeless |                            |

**Caravaggio, *The Seven Works of Mercy* (1607),  
Pio Monte della Misericordia, Naples** (front cover of leaflet)

**Bury the Dead** – in the background, two men carry a dead man (of whom only the feet are visible).

**Visit the Imprisoned, and Feed the Hungry** – on the right, a woman visits an imprisoned man and gives him milk from her breast. This image alludes to the classical story of Roman Charity.

**Shelter the Homeless** – a pilgrim (third from left, as identified by the shell in his hat) asks an innkeeper (at far left) for shelter.

**Clothe the Naked** – St Martin of Tours (fourth from the left) has torn his robe in half and given it to the naked beggar in the foreground, recalling the saint’s popular legend.

**Visit the Sick** – St Martin greets and comforts the beggar who is a cripple.

**Give Drink to the Thirsty** – Samson (second from the left) drinks water from the jawbone of an ass.

### ***Colloquy* (‘intimate conversation’) with Christ**

- Imagine yourself standing before Our Lord; turn to Him, and share your thoughts with Him – in what ways have you attended/ are you attending to the least of our brothers and sisters, as in Matthew 25?
- The list of seven corporal works of mercy is not exhaustive, and today there are many other activities that might fit into this category (caring for the earth; working for nuclear disarmament; fighting against abortion; putting an end to human trafficking..). How might you / do you involve yourself in these works?
- Spend some time in prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, asking Him to enlarge your heart for the grace and strength to engage in more corporal works of mercy.