

Mercy

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

RESOURCE BOOKLET

This booklet has been produced by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (AOFE) as a resource for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (2015-2016). Information and links provided are considered to be correct and active at the time of publication.

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Front cover: CNS photo/Paul Haring



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE



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A person wearing a white robe is shown from the chest up, holding a lit candle. The background is a solid blue color. The person's face is partially visible, and they are looking down at the candle. The candle is lit, and a small flame is visible at the top of the wick. The person's hands are visible, holding the candle. The overall image has a serene and contemplative feel.

*We need constantly to
contemplate the mystery of
mercy. It is a wellspring of joy,
serenity and peace.*

Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus

About the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy begins on 8th December 2015—the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council—and concludes on 20th November 2016. Pope Francis will open the door of St Peter's Basilica to officially welcome the Jubilee Year. He has said that the door will become “a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.” The Jubilee Year's theme is: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

A jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The tradition started about 700 years ago and 26 jubilees have been celebrated since. Of those, only three have been “extraordinary” (including this Year of Mercy).

The official proclamation (bull of indiction) of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* (“The Face of Mercy”) and explains how in Jesus Christ, in his words and actions, the mercy of God has been revealed.

Resources for the Journey Ahead

Pope Francis' invitation to the Year of Mercy is a call to renew and deepen our understanding and actions of mercy. This resource booklet has been developed as an aid to equip parishes as they embark on a ‘pilgrimage’ through the Year of Mercy.

Developed by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (AOFE), these suggested resources have been selected to *initiate, inspire and support* a response from parish communities and beyond. Consultation with various stakeholders, e.g. parish priests and parish representatives and members of the Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM), has been a key part of this discernment process. Our focus has been to provide tangible offerings for parishes to incorporate into their existing ministries and provide them with ‘simple essentials presented with beauty’ to equip them for this significant journey.

Please adapt these resources to suit your unique parish culture, identity, demographic, local needs and circumstance. This booklet is not intended to be exhaustive; the AOFE website will continue to be a source of information and communication as the Jubilee Year unfolds. New resources will be promoted as they become available. Keep checking the AOFE website (www.cam.org.au/evangelisation) or sign up to receive the monthly e-newsletter for the latest resources and event information.

A Year of Mercy Roadmap with ‘Moments of Refreshment’



This Jubilee is an invitation to journey as an archdiocese—towards a greater understanding and expression of God's mercy. Along the way, there will be regional and central gatherings to provide people with ‘moments of refreshment’. A *Year of Mercy Roadmap* has been developed (see inside back cover) to provide information on key gatherings that will be hosted in the four regions of the archdiocese with their respective auxiliary bishops. This includes talks and ‘workshops for action’ with international speakers visiting in 2016. All parishes were sent a copy of the roadmap in early October (as part of a Year of Mercy newspaper). A larger PDF version of the map is also available to download from the AOFE website. Both the opening and the conclusion of the Jubilee year will be marked by gatherings at St Patrick's Cathedral (see p.47).

Excerpts from Misericordiae Vultus



- “Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.”
- “The Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instils hope.”
- “I have chosen the date of 8 December because of its rich meaning in the recent history of the Church. In fact, I will open the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers strongly perceived as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way.”
- “We recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the Council, he indicated the path to follow: ‘Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity ... The Catholic Church, as she holds high the torch of Catholic truth at this Ecumenical Council, wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children.’”
- “How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God! May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!”
- “Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy as an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.”
- “As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God’s action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible.”

Unpacking the title: “Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy”

‘EXTRAORDINARY’

- very unusual or remarkable
- specially convened
- Synonyms: *remarkable, exceptional, amazing*

‘JUBILEE’

- a season or occasion of joyful celebration
- Biblical origins from the Hebrew words *yobel* or *yovel* meaning a ram’s horn, trumpet or coronet
- Synonyms: *anniversary, commemoration, emancipation, restoration*

‘YEAR’

- A period of 365 days
- Liturgical Year of Mercy (Dec-Nov) 348 days!
- Synonyms: *a revolution of the earth*

‘MERCY’

- compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm
- Synonyms: *leniency, grace, humanity, charity, love*

Themes in the Papal Bull: Defining & Expanding the Image

‘DOOR’

- a hinged, sliding or revolving barrier at the entrance to a building, room, vehicle or in the framework of a cupboard
- Synonyms: *opening, entrance, entry, exit*

‘PILGRIMAGE’

- a journey to a sacred place
- a ritual journey of moral or spiritual significance. Every step along the way has meaning. The pilgrim knows that life giving challenges will emerge
- Synonyms: *holy expedition, mission, trip, excursion*

CALL:

- a cry made as a summons or to attract someone’s attention
- to cry out in a loud voice
- Synonyms: *shout, request, exclaim*

GRACE

- freely given, unmerited favour and love of God
- the influence or spirit of God operating in humans to regenerate or strengthen them
- Synonyms: *love, mercy, endowment*

ACTION

- the fact or process of doing something, typically to achieve an aim
- Synonyms: *activity, movement, effort, exertion*

ENCOUNTER

- a meeting with someone, especially one that is unplanned or brief
- Synonyms: *engagement, concurrence, experience*

SOLIDARITY

- unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest: mutual support within a group
- Synonyms: *accord, cohesion, harmony, camaraderie*

UNITY

- the state of being united or joined as a whole
- Synonyms: *unification, integration, interconnection, alliance*

Sources:

www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary
www.thefreedictionary.com

Hymns for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Merciful As The Father

The official hymn, *Misericordes sicut Pater* (Merciful as the Father), was written by Eugenio Costa, S.J and composed by Paul Inwood. The hymn has been made available by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. Audio mp3 files and downloadable pdf music scores can be downloaded from: www.im.va



Heart Of Jesus, Heart Of Mercy

Br Michael Herry fms has composed a Hymn for the Jubilee of Year of Mercy. You can listen and download the song and PDF sheet music from <http://www.maristmusic.org.au/hymn-for-the-jubilee-year-of-mercy/>

Prayers

The Salve Regina

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, the children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this land of exile. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; lead us home at the end and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus: O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen. (USCCB Modern translation)

Prayer for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy (penned by Pope Francis)

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 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.

The Year of Mercy Logo

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 I. Rupnik – presents a small summa theologiae of 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. The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with 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 (the shape of an almond), a figure 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.

Download a copy of the Year of Mercy logo and explanation from www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/logo.html

“At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.”

Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus

How to Use this Resource Booklet

This booklet contains a variety of practical ideas for unpacking ‘mercy’ and inviting participation from your local parish community. Information is presented in four sections under the headings that reflect the four pillars of parish life:



1

Community & Hospitality

Covers the tasks and events that provide opportunity for fellowship and often enhanced by the provision of food, drinks and social activities.



2

Faith & Witness

Involves provision of opportunities and programs to support faith formation, development and growth.



3

Proclamation & Worship

Relates to all things liturgical including scripture, music, church seasons and sacraments.



4

Service & Outreach

Incorporates those activities specifically aimed and designed to provide a service within or beyond the parish for the individual or common good.

The overview of each resource includes:

ABOUT



A short introduction to the resource: what it is and its key features.

USE



Provides some inspiration for the use of the resource in parish setting, small group settings or in communications to groups.

FIND



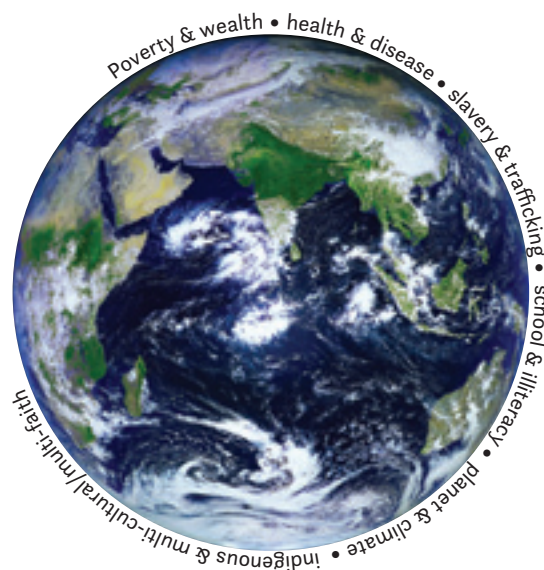
Information on how and where to obtain the resource and discover more.



Community & Hospitality

Covers the tasks and events that provide opportunity for fellowship, often enhanced by the provision of food, drinks and social activities.

Table Conversations: Our Family of Humanity in the Year of Mercy



ABOUT



This resource is a facilitated session offered by Sr Moira Broderick csb to provide a space where real encounter and dialogue can happen at the local level. Encounter must start with conversation. The best conversations happen around a table and over a simple meal together. What are our global issues? How could/should we respond, personally and as a faith community, as people of the Gospel.

USE



During the Year of Mercy, select an evening/day to set up tables of six to eight people and see where the conversations take you. Host a communal meal in the parish centre or in parish homes — perhaps a progressive dinner across the parish to share the hosting and foster fellowship. Some considerations:

- Target particular parish groups.
- Have an inter-faith/multi faith focus and invite your 'neighbours'.
- Start a dialogue with others about how this might apply in your community.
- Develop an intentional guest list of the marginalised in your area.
- Plan a themed 'multicultural dress/food' event.

FIND



For enquiries or a facilitator contact:
Sr Moira Broderick csb
(03) 9890 7298
0408 008 933
mcbroderick@bigpond.com

Pyjamas, Prayers & Teddy Bears



ABOUT

This resource has been developed by Meredith Bennett (Deputy Principal, St Michael's Parish Primary school Ashburton).

There are a number of opportunities for children to pray throughout the school day. It is important for the parents and caregivers to be aware of the different ways children can pray within a contemporary setting. Throughout their schooling, the children have an opportunity to learn and pray traditional prayers and learn about our faith traditions, as well as praying in a range of non-traditional ways. Within our school setting, the children are encouraged to pray through traditional prayer, song, meditation and art as well other contemporary avenues. We believe that it is important for the children to have a range of options to develop their sense of prayerfulness as well as to pray for different reasons, not always to ask for something.

USE

Through the Prep faith evening "Pyjamas, Prayers and Teddy Bears", there is an opportunity for the children to pray with their parents and to demonstrate their understanding of prayer.

- The session involves the children being thankful, beginning and continuing their story with their parents, decorating a candle to create a personal prayer space in their home and using song as prayer.
- Parishes could offer to host and provide hospitality for such an evening in order to welcome all the new Prep families to the Parish and also to include and integrate those Prep children/families in the parish who attend local government/private schools.

FIND

For enquiries or a facilitator contact:

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St Michael's Primary School
Ashburton
(03) 9885 3105
mbennett@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

The Parish Baptismal Hospitality



ABOUT



*Welcoming the stranger/family
welcoming the youngest in our
community*

Revise and reinvigorate your Baptism program with this innovative pathway currently being used to great effect by the Catholic Parish of St Francis and St Clare. This resource is a facilitated session offered by Sr Moira Broderick. Explore a range of questions including...

- Who extends a warm, happy and genuine welcome?
- How is the parish community involved?
- Is hospitality a key element?
- How is the parish staying in touch afterwards?
- What is your model?

USE



Recommended for any parish looking to maximise the opportunity for encounter with young families that the Sacrament of Baptism provides and to those open to new ideas.

- Invite Prep/Grade 1 school mums to participate and share to their own story of welcome into the community.
- Do you have a parish playgroup? Ask the young mums to consider being part of the Parish Baptism Hospitality initiative however they are able – promote it as an opportunity to ‘pay it forward’.

FIND



For enquiries or a facilitator, contact:

Sr Moira Broderick csb
(03) 9890 7298
0408 008 933
mcbroderick@bigpond.com

We need constantly

to contemplate the

mystery.

Faith & Witness

Involves the provision of opportunities
and programs to support faith formation,
development and growth.

It is a longing

for joy, serenity and

peace.

The Medicine of Mercy

ABOUT



This is an essential guide for every parish in the Church. It provides you with prayer, outlines, steps and ideas for five important planning meetings, all leading to a solid pastoral plan for the Jubilee Year. This e-Resource kit includes the following items:

- A summary and reading guide to Pope Francis' formal announcement of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy
- Background documents and information to help you and your leaders understand more fully what this Jubilee leads to
- A 5-Meeting Guide to plan for the coming Jubilee, helping you understand what the Pope is asking of us, who are the people most in need of mercy, specific actions of mercy we might undertake and a planning calendar for the Jubilee Year.

USE

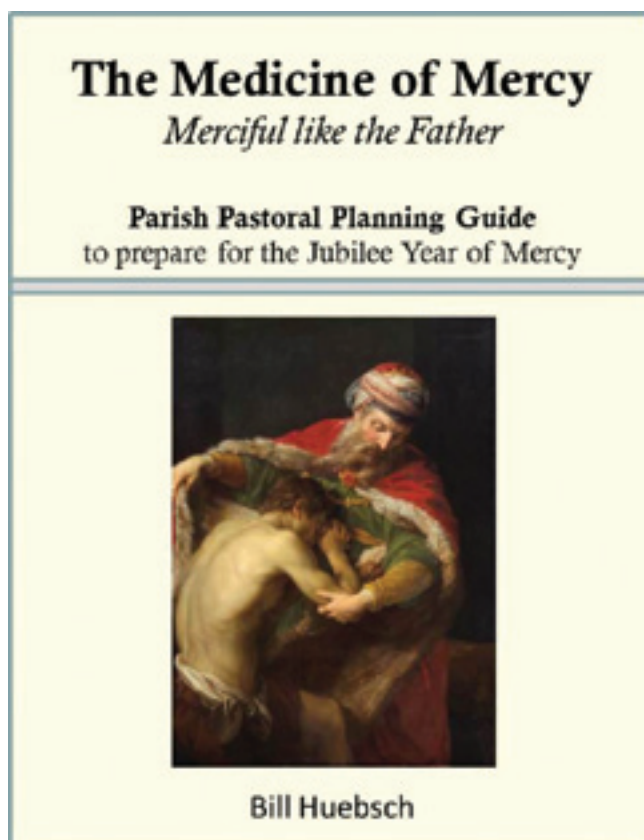


This resource is adaptable to use in a variety of settings from parish leadership, school staff meeting, small groups to whole parish/school community reflection via bulletin, magazine or pre/post mass over a cuppa. Start the conversation with others at the local level and discern together what will work best for your community.

FIND



The Pastoral Planning Guide for the Jubilee Year is an e-Resource by Bill Huebsch, and published by TwentyThird Publications. The PDF resource can purchased online from:
<http://store.pastoralplanning.com/meofmeiplguf.html>



Faces of Mercy

ABOUT

Commissioned especially for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, this engaging and accessible activity is an A3-size activity booklet displaying eight famous 'Faces of Mercy' in their younger days, with an invitation to discover "Who Am I?"

Further reflection/exploration is also sought at the back of the document with a 'fill the gap' section, i.e.:

- "I am_____."
- How did I show mercy?"

USE

This cross-generational activity could be used from middle primary age through to the elderly in your community, to start a RE topic, to begin a conversation, to engage learning, enhance adult faith formation or RCIA or simply as an enjoyable trivia quiz around the family or parish house table or after mass cuppa.

FIND

This activity is available for download on the AOFE website: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation



who am I?

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING 'FACES OF MERCY'?

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

7. 

8. 

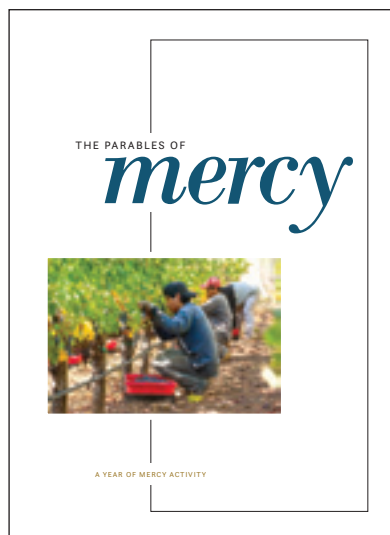
9. 

"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me. ...
Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least
of these who are members of my family,
you did it to me."
MATTHEW 25:35-36, 40

faces of mercy

A JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY ACTIVITY BY

1. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 2. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 3. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 4. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 5. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 6. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 7. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 8. KATHARINE CHISHOLM 9. KATHARINE CHISHOLM



Parables of Mercy

ABOUT



As we enter this Holy Year of Mercy, *Parables of Mercy* presents us with an invitation to reflect on the overwhelming mercy of God. Through the paintings and photographs presented here we are given a visual meditation on some of the parables Jesus used to portray God's mercy. Included are two images that are not parables – the Washing of Feet and Pope Francis: a Prophet of Mercy. These are provided to deepen our reflection on mercy in action. You are invited to take some time to pray with these images, alone or in a group, and allow them to speak to your own experience of the mercy of God.

USE



Commissioned especially for use in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the *Parables of Mercy* resource is a travelling exhibition of eight A1-size images. The images are available to borrow (free-of-charge) from the AOFE and come with an accompanying reflection booklet.

- Display the exhibition in the Church/foyer over a week or two during the Year of Mercy and invite parish groups/school classes to visit and use the reflection booklet.
- Use it as a display to invite visitors to a 'Mercy' fundraiser and donate funds to the poor, the imprisoned, the thirsty or the hungry.

FIND



For further enquiries or to book this travelling resource contact the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation:
(03) 9926 5761
www.cam.org.au/evangelisation

Proclamation & Worship

Relates to all things liturgical including scripture,
music, church seasons and sacraments.

Confession: The Sacrament of Mercy

ABOUT

An integral and recurring theme in the papacy of Pope Francis has been his own deep humility and acknowledgement of himself as a sinner “I am a sinner...on whom the Lord has turned his gaze” and the ongoing example and call to receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession/Reconciliation).

USE

- Regularly use Pope Francis’ own words and example in parish/school bulletins and websites to promote the message of loving forgiveness in a positive way.
- Give times for Reconciliation in your parish a higher profile.
- Provide details of where the Sacrament is available elsewhere e.g. a nearby parish, St Francis’ Church in the city or at St Patrick’s Cathedral.

FIND

Find inspiration and witness in these quotes from Pope Francis on confession (see right).



VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis said he goes to confession every two weeks, knowing that God never tires of forgiving those who repent, but also knowing that having a priest say “I absolve you” reinforces belief in God’s mercy.

Posted by Cindy Wooden, 13 Nov 2013 (CNS)

Using the literal Italian translation of a Spanish saying, “It’s better to turn red once than yellow a thousand times,” Pope Francis said he knows some people are embarrassed to confess their sins to a priest, but it is the best path to spiritual healing and health.

During his Wednesday audience, Pope Francis encouraged the pilgrims filling St. Peter’s Square to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. “Everyone say to himself: ‘When was the last time I went to confession?’ And if it has been a long time, don’t lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, (will be) there, and Jesus is better than the priests - Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession.”

Pope Francis on Feb. 19. Vatican City, Feb 19, 2014 (CNA)

The only people God will not forgive are those who do not want God’s forgiveness, just like only those who stand in the shade are not warmed on a sunny day, Pope Francis said.

Catholic Herald by Cindy Wooden posted Friday, 13 Mar 2015

180 Kids, Children, Everyone



ABOUT



This idea comes from Fr Noel Brady (Parish Priest, Kings Park):

For many years our Parish has conducted Children's Liturgy during selected weekend Masses. Children seem to enjoy the experience. Ongoing challenges have included the lack of parents committing to this ministry and most recently the development of a 'Before & After School' Programme now requiring exclusive use of the Children's Liturgy space.

Following a meeting of those committed to this ministry it was decided that once a month, for the first three minutes of the homily (3 mins x 60 secs = 180), there be a focus on the children. We might recall Jesus speaking to

us in Mark's Gospel: 'Let the little children come to me' (Mk 10:14). A professor in the seminary once said to me that children are the best theologians; because they are not afraid to ask questions! I can also remember a parishioner at Croydon many years ago saying to me after Mass, "Your homily was very good, but what was there for the children?" Hence the name "180 for Kids, Children, Everyone". Those committed to Children's Liturgy will help plan the '180 for Kids'.

Thank you to Fr Noel Brady for sharing this creative pastoral response/solution and exciting idea from Kings Park Parish.

USE



How might this be project be applied in your parish? Talk to your parish priest, pastoral associate and liturgy team to explore the possibilities.

FIND



Explore the AOFE website to find more ideas to enhance Children's Liturgy, including *The Summit Liturgical Journal* or the *Leading the Liturgy of the Word with Children* liturgical brochure, also available from the AOFE website:

www.cam.org.au/evangelisation



‘Mercy Matters’ Mass

ABOUT

Centred around the celebration of the Eucharist, this is an idea to foster practical engagement and participation within the local community through: Community & Hospitality, Proclamation & Worship, Faith & Witness and Service & Outreach.

The purpose is to gather in solidarity as people of faith to celebrate with gratitude for the past, with enthusiasm for the present and with hope for the future, as the good news of Jesus Christ enables us to do.

USE

Use as a whole School/Faith community multi-cultural, interfaith event to mark the Year of Mercy at the local level.

- Link to a Sunday in Ordinary Time with a suitable Gospel Reading
- Name & give testament to real life models of mercy past & present within your community
- Invite families to attend and bring a donation (food/money) for the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies).
- Book and display the AOFE *Parables of Mercy* resource (see p.16).
- Invite the Parish primary school families to help with their own art work or

creative writing around the theme of mercy. You could base it on the parables of mercy or ask people what does mercy look, sound, taste, smell and feel like?

- Refer to the *Table Conversations* event (p.10)

FIND

Use the appendix at the back of this resource to select suitable readings, songs and psalms with a mercy theme (see p.29). Contact the AOFE to book the *Parables of Mercy* travelling resource.



Service & Outreach

Incorporates those activities specifically aimed
and designed to provide a service within or
beyond the parish for the individual
or common good.

*Mercy in the City:
How to Feed the Hungry,
Give Drink to the Thirsty,
Visit the Imprisoned and
Keep Your Day Job*



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit those in prison.
- Comfort the sick.
- Bury the dead.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- Admonish sinners.
- Instruct the uninformed.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Comfort the sorrowful.
- Be patient with those in error.
- Forgive offenses.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

ABOUT



Does giving half of your sandwich to a homeless person count as “feeding the hungry”? Does buying the occasional coffee for a co-worker count as “giving drink to the thirsty”? ‘Mercy in the City’ is an easy to read and inspiring account of the practical application of the works of mercy by the young, single and busy Kerry Weber.

Learn how Kerry challenged herself to complete the corporal works of mercy during the season of Lent in the big and bustling City of New York.

USE



Challenge yourself during the Year of Mercy!

- Set yourself the goal of performing the works of mercy (see above)
- Make it a habit!
- Read Kerry Weber’s book and use the Corporal Acts of Mercy as a checklist/ target to achieve as a group/parish/school/ faith community initiative during the Year of Mercy.

FIND



Central Catholic Bookshop
www.catholicbookshop.com.au
(03) 9639 0844

Garratt Publishing
www.garrattpublishing.com.au
1300 650 878

Pauline Books & Media
www.paulinebooks.com.au
7 Denmark Hill Road
Hawthorn East
(03) 9882 4324

Works of Mercy Activity

ABOUT ⓘ

This activity is taken from the Loyola Press website. It is adaptable to various settings and age groups. This example is suitable for use in a classroom. The objective is to investigate how the local community promotes the corporal works of mercy and identify ways of treating neighbours properly.



USE

Materials needed:

- Copies of the corporal works of mercy
- Parish/school newsletters
- Community bulletins
- Local newspapers

Directions:

- Arrange the children in groups of three or four. Provide each group with a copy of the corporal works of mercy.
- Distribute the bulletins, newsletters, and newspapers.
- Instruct each group to look through the materials to identify where the corporal works of mercy are being carried out.
- If the group members are unable to find any opportunities that pertain to a certain work of mercy, instruct them to brainstorm a suitable opportunity they could do in their local community.
- Encourage the members of each group to share what they have found.
- Challenge the children to choose an organised activity in which they could participate that treats people according to Jesus' example.

God's Tender Mercy

(Book Recommendation)

ABOUT ⓘ

In her latest book, *God's Tender Mercy*, bestselling author Sr Joan Chittister takes difficult and even mysterious concepts and breaks them open for us. Here she explores the virtue of mercy and its connection to forgiveness. She feels passionately that many of us don't understand either mercy or forgiveness and don't offer them enough to others. She challenges us to stop judging, accusing, and criticizing those we label/view as 'sinners' and to see ourselves in their number. She invites us to be realistic about our own actions before we throw that first stone at the other.



FIND



Garratt Publishing

www.garrattpublishing.com.au 1300 650 878

Pauline Books & Media

www.paulinebooks.com.au

7 Denmark Hill Road

Hawthorn East

(03) 9882 4324

Mercy for the Planet



ABOUT ⓘ

Environmental education is vital as it shapes how each generation care for our common home. In Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* he says, "There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle."

USE 💡

Care for Our Common Home: An Australian Group Reading Guide

Includes prayers and questions for reflection and discussion. Useful for Catholic schools, youth ministry, confirmation programs, parish leaders, small communities, clergy groups, adult formation, RCIA or families.

Laudato Si' Encyclical: Youth Workshop

Catholic EarthCare Australia can offer workshops and resources especially tailored to younger audiences, or for those working with young people. Their website also contains resources and concrete suggestions for responding to Pope Francis' call.

FIND 🔍

Garratt Publishing

www.garrattpublishing.com.au 1300 650 878

Catholic EarthCare Australia

www.catholicearthcare.org.au (02) 8907 9500

Youth Workshop Facilitator:

Tess Corkish (Youth Engagement Officer)

tess@catholicearthcare.org.au

The Blessing of Mercy

(Book Recommendation)

ABOUT ⓘ

Veronica Lawson, a Religious Sister of Mercy is one of Australia's leading Catholic biblical scholars. In *The Blessing of Mercy: Bible Perspectives and Ecological Challenges* she combines deep scholarship to uncover the richness of the 'mercy texts both in the Hebrew scriptures and in the New testament. Readers are invited to re-visit the biblical texts in the light of *Laudato Si'*, the Pope's latest encyclical, with its appeal for us to listen to the cry of the earth and the earth's poor.



FIND 🔍

Central Catholic Bookshop

www.catholicbookshop.com.au
322 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
(03) 9639 0844

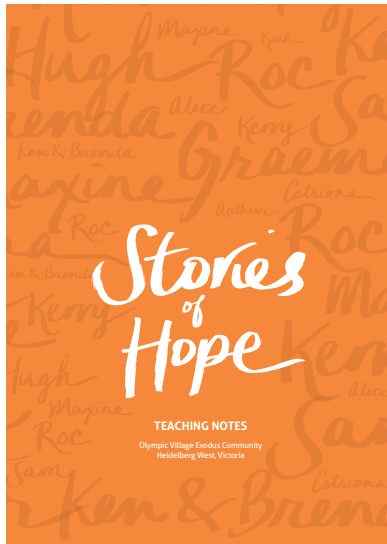
Garratt Publishing

www.garrattpublishing.com.au 1300 650 878

Pauline Books & Media

www.paulinebooks.com.au
7 Denmark Hill Road
Hawthorn East
(03) 9882 4324

Stories of Hope



ABOUT

In *Stories of Hope*, 12 people from the Olympic Village Exodus Community of West Heidelberg share stories of their journeys from lives of poverty, hurt, stigma and abuse to a place where they now feel valued and appreciated. These people, previously unheard, have powerful stories that needed to be shared. Now they speak about things of life and of God that others might only dream of. The stories are a useful medium for opening up discussions of social justice: of poverty, disconnection, isolation and their causes. They are hope-filled stories of real people living in our community; lives of disadvantage in the midst of our affluent society.

USE

Never underestimate the powerful impact of empathy. Explore ways to push back against what Pope Francis describes as the insidious 'culture of indifference' gripping the Western world. These stories will challenge and inspire anyone with a compassionate heart and provide opportunity to consider social justice responses at the local level.

The book comes with **Teachers Notes** which makes it ideal for use in Catholic schools, youth ministry groups, confirmation programs, parish leaders, parish groups, small communities, clergy groups, adult formation, RCIA or families.

FIND

Stories of Hope is available for purchase from the Exodus Community. Contact Br Harry Prout fms on (03) 9457 7593 or harry.prout@marists.org.au.

An extract from *Stories of Hope* along with Teachers Notes can be downloaded from the AOFE website:

www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Resources/Publications/Article/16382/Stories-of-Hope-Teacher-Notes


For more information about the Exodus Community visit: www.exoduscommunity.org.au

I Was in Prison...



“Who am I to judge?”
—Pope Francis

WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH THOSE IN PRISON...

- *Move from intolerance to acceptance* 
To truly accept others, faults and all, is a level rarely attained by most people. To merely “tolerate” others that are different from us – race, ethnicity, religion, etc. – is no longer sufficient if we really want to reduce recidivism. We must look beyond superficial differences and recognize that what we have in common is the human condition.
- *Donate funds to provide prayer sheets, bibles and rosary beads*
- *Volunteer as a member of the prison faith community*
Members of the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Team organised through CatholicCare’s Catholic Prison Ministry visit prisons and provide witness and conversation. Good relational skills are essential in this ministry.
- *Consider the homeless and what drove them to the streets*
Many of those in prison were first homeless. If you have been blessed to be born, raised and still live in a ‘sacred home’, one where you feel safe, secure and loved, be grateful. Then

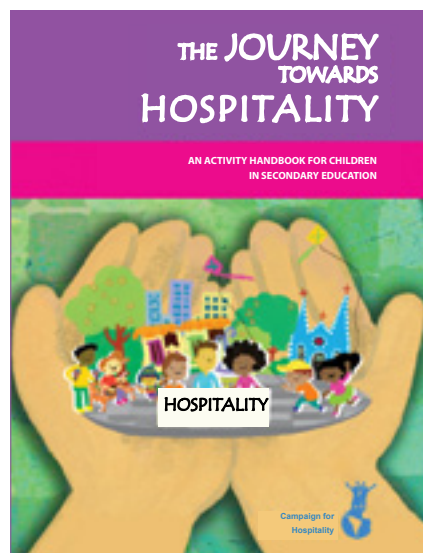
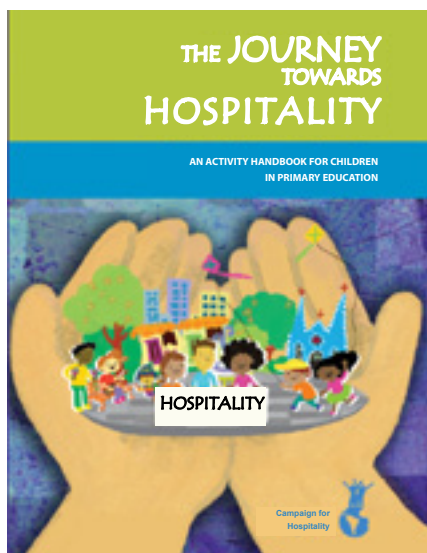
reflect on the unique & valuable life story of every person in prison – try to walk in their shoes with mercy and compassion. Respond from your heart.

- *Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them.* (Hebrews 13:3)
Keep those in prison, their families, those who work with them and those who minister to them on your personal & communal prayer radar.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Sr Mary O’Shannessy
(03) 9287 5577 or cpmvic@ccam.org.au

The Journey Towards Hospitality



ABOUT

These activity handbooks were developed as part of a Campaign for Hospitality organised by the Jesuit Network for Migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean (RJM LAC). The aim was to enable children and young people to: Acknowledge the reality of migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced people; Discover the richness of cultural diversity and intercultural societies; Welcome and respect everyone, and; Defend the dignity and rights of foreigners, forced migrants, refugees and displaced people.

In the current world climate with millions of displaced refugees and asylum seekers, education of our young people in the Christian attitude of hospitality and love is the key to empowerment and engagement in the mission of the Church.

USE

For RELs, Faith & Catholic Identity Co-ordinators, teachers, youth group leaders. Especially for Secondary Students in a school setting but could possibly be adapted to use with young adults or senior youth groups to start a conversation for future action.

FIND

You can download both these activity books for free at the Jesuit Refugee Services website:
www.jrs.org.au/category/handbooks/



Appendix

Music for the Year of Mercy (Workshop 3)

Developed by AOFE

Gather Australia (GA) | Catholic Worship Book (CWB) | As One Voice (AOV)

Responsorial Psalms (Common Texts for Sung Responsorial Psalms)

Lectionary 1 Proper of Season Sundays in Ordinary Time Pages 913 –927

Psalm 51 : Be Merciful, O Lord / Create a Clean Heart	C Willcock	GA p.41
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful	C Willcock	GA p.61
Psalm 91: Be with me Lord	M Haugen	GA p.53
Psalm 51: Be Merciful, O Lord	M Haugen	GA (2 nd ed.) p.53
Psalm 130: With the Lord There is Mercy	M Haugen	GA (2 nd ed.) p.113

Liturgical Songs & Hymns

A Trusting Psalm	K Bates	GA p.455
Blest Be the Lord	D Schutte	GA p.458; AOV p.179
Bread of the World in Mercy broken	R Heber	CWB p.631
Come as you are	D Browne	GA p.212; AOV p.31
Everlasting your Love	B Hurd	AOV p.128
Father of Mercy, God of Consolation	J Quinn	CWB p.670
God of Mercy and Compassion	M Hodgetts	GA p.302; CWB p.692
Hold me in Life	H Oosterhuis	GA (2 nd ed.) p.423
I have loved you	M Joncas	AOV p.126; GA p.402
O Father, I know I can count on your mercy	K Boschetti	CWB p.762
Psalm 33 : Let Your Mercy Be on Us	M Haugen	GA p.31
Psalm 34 : The Cry of the Poor	J Foley	GA p.36
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful	J Cotter	GA (2 nd ed.) p.88
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful	M Haugen	GA (2 nd ed.) p.89
Remember Your Love	D Ducote & G Daigle	GA (2 nd ed.) p.641
Remember Your Mercies	D Haas	GA p.210
Return to God	M Haugen	GA p.304
Sing of the Lord's Goodness	E. Sands	GA p.413; AOV p.131
Taste and See	B Hurd	AOV p.67
The Lord is Near / May the Angels	M Joncas	GA p.457
There's a wilderness in God's Mercy	F W Faber	CWB p.838
We are Called	D Haas	GA p.514
World Peace Prayer	S Kumar & M Haugen	GA (2 nd ed.) p.523
Your mercy like Rain	R Cooney	GA (2 nd ed.) p.254

General Intercessions / Prayers of the Faithful

O God hear us	B Hurd	AOV p.22; GA p.150
Jesus Come to us	B Hurd	AOV p.148
www.icelweb.org	www.icelweb.org/musicfolder/openmusic.php	

Other helpful web links for recommended music:

- The official Year of Mercy hymn:
www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/inno.html
- Recommended List of Hymns (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference):
<https://www.catholic.org.au/acbc-media/downloads/bishops-commissions/bishops-commission-for-liturgy-1/national-liturgical-music-board-1/968-recommended-list-of-hymns-liturgical-songs-alphabetical-listing-by-title-1/file>
- National Liturgical Music Board:
<https://www.catholic.org.au/national-liturgical-music-board/recommended-hymns-and-songs-approved-by-the-acbc>

Come & See (Workshop 4)

ABOUT

This eye catching information card was designed and developed to raise awareness of the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) process to young adults. It aims to assist youth (especially young adults) at university, in parishes and secondary schools in their search for God, or to assist them in their questions about Jesus, Mary and the Catholic Church.

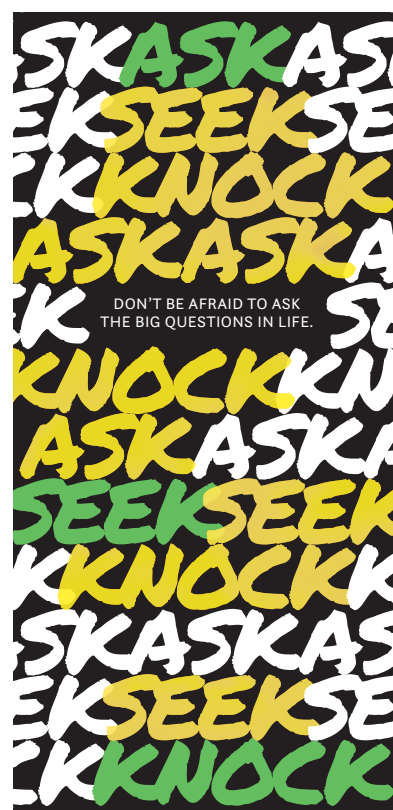
RCIA is likened to a spiritual journey in local parishes, for people who express a desire to become Catholic. The 'inquirers' engage in a series of sessions, and through the Gospels, get to know Jesus and his messages of love and forgiveness. They also learn about Catholic beliefs and traditions. They receive the Sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night.

USE

These cards (DL-size) have been produced by the AOFE with a blank space for parish RCIA teams to write their local contact information. The cards could be made available wherever young people gather — at local and/or events around the diocese.

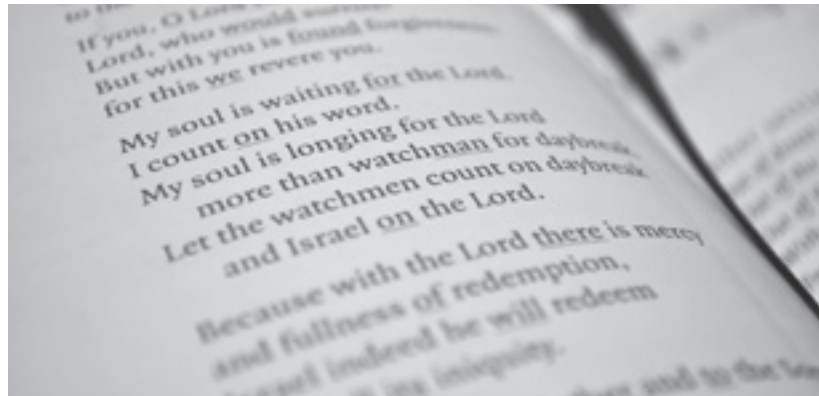
FIND

Contact Joy Adriaanse
RCIA Co-ordinator/Parish Liaison
Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation
(03) 9287 5572 | joy.adriaanse@cam.org.au
www.cam.org.au/evangelisation



Lectio Divina notes on ‘mercy’ (Workshop 6 & 14)

Notes from “Lectio Divina – Wellsprings of Mercy & Nourishment for the Journey” provided by Frances & Vincent Cassidy



MERCY: the heart of faith, the reason for hope.

In order to be capable of MERCY, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate GOD’S MERCY and adopt it as our lifestyle. (Pope Francis).

Introduction

The Word and the Eucharist are food and nourishment for our ongoing journey of MERCY. In this story Jesus shows compassion and mercy on the two disciples as they make their journey away from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. It is in the Opening of the Word and the Breaking of the Bread that the two disciples recognise Jesus and were given the courage to return to Jerusalem.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, your Spirit made us your children, confident to call you Father. Increase your Spirit within us as we journey through this Year of Mercy. This we ask through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Scripture Reading (LK 24:13-33)

The Journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus

That very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. As they talked, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them. ‘What matters are you discussing as you walk along?’ They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, ‘You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning...and they did not find the body...

He said to them, ‘Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’ Then starting with Moses and going through all the

prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them...So he went in to stay with them.

Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

—

1. In our 1st Reading (Lectio): Listen for the word or phrase that captures your attention.
Which word is speaking to you – repeat it silently.
2. In our 2nd Reading (Meditatio): We reflect more deeply on God's Word.
Notice where this passage is speaking to your life
3. In our 3rd Reading (Oratio): We speak to God. Have our eyes been opened?
Do our hearts burn within us?
4. Contemplatio: We have responded to God's Word with our own words – let us now respond in silence.
5. Operatio: We take this Word home with us and recall it to mind during the week, during this forthcoming Year of Mercy.

Conclusion

Together let us pray the words that Jesus taught us.... *Our Father.*

May the balm of Mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away,
as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst. ☸

For more information on or facilitation of Lectio Divina, contact Frances & Vincent Cassidy:
francescassidy7@hotmail.com

The Sundays of Advent & Lent – Year C (Workshop 12)

Notes from “The Sundays of Advent & Lent – Year C” provided by Fr Frank Moloney sdb | fmoloney@salesians.org.au

PREMISE: The radical difference between the Season of Advent and the Season of Lent. The most obvious external sign of the difference: no fasting. Advent is a time of waiting, Lent is a time of repentance.

ADVENT: The Season is shaped in two parts: Weeks 1-3, and Week 4.

Readings for Weeks 1-3, determined by a focus upon the promise of a Messiah, and the role of John the Baptist, feature the tension generated by “waiting,” in the following fashion.

The Old Testament readings are selected from the prophets. Two of them are directly Messianic (Jeremiah 33:14-16 [Week 1] and Zephaniah 3:14-18 [Week 3: Laetare Sunday], and the third addresses the promise of a forerunner (Baruch 5:1-9 [Week 2]). All three of these readings look forward to something yet to come.

The Gospel Readings generate the tension as they are selected from the Gospel of Luke (Year C), reporting words and actions of Jesus (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 [Week 1]), the description of the Baptist, in fulfillment of the OT passage (Luke 3:1-6 [Week 2]), the message of the Baptist (Luke 3:10-18 [week 3]). The Gospel reading of Week 1 is especially important, as the words of Jesus point beyond the Jesus event to the end of all time. The time of Jesus has come, but points beyond itself. Advent points to the two comings of Christ: incarnation and end time.

The Second Readings all focus upon behavioural aspects of the Christian life. They instruct the Christian on how to live the “in-between-time.”

Theme of these three Sundays of Advent is well caught the Preface: “He assumed in his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation. That, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.”

Readings for Week 4, all focus upon the fact of the incarnation: Micah 1:1-4 (Bethlehem), and the Luke 1:39-44, the Visitation and the acclamation of Jesus as “Lord.”

The theme of the Fourth Week is again caught in the Preface: “For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with a love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came”

LENT: A brief reflection on the unique nature of Christian fasting as a sign of repentance

The readings for the five Sundays of Lent (excluding Passion Sunday) are all intensely Christological. Given the Lukan focus upon the theme of mercy and compassion, the Gospel readings build up to a passionate presentation of God's mercy revealed in and through Jesus in weeks 3 and 4. The theme of the Year of Mercy is well-caught in the Lenten Gospel readings for Year C.

Ash Wednesday

The key to the Lenten discipline is made clear in the reading from the Prophet Joel and the Gospel of Matthew on the profoundly "internal" nature of any discipline ... not a matter of show. What about the ashes? Badge of honour?

There is a steadily increasing Christological focus across the Sundays, climaxing with two "mercy" Sundays that point beyond the practice of mercy to the Lord and God behind such a way of life and faith:

First Sunday

The theme of a relationship with God as "Father" in the Deuteronomy 26:4-10 reading culminating in the "if you are the Son of God" testing of Jesus in Luke 4:1-13. The key to Lent is expressed in Romans 10:8-13: "If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. Theme: relationship with Jesus and the Father.

Second Sunday

A focus upon the role of the transfiguration account in the Gospel narratives: as suffering and death looms, the Father identifies Jesus, and demands that we "listen to him." Who is it that asks us to follow a suffering Messiah?

Third Sunday

Focus upon the Gospel: the divine gift of "time and space" to be what we are called to be. The importance of this theme for the Gospel of Luke and its "history of salvation." An introduction to the mercy theme ... God gives time!

Fourth Sunday

The mercy theme: the Father with the two sons. Where is the Father at the end of the parable? Are we looking for God in the right place?

Fifth Sunday

The mercy theme: the woman caught in adultery. Focus: the change of dynamic in the relationship between the woman and other characters in the episode. No acceptance of sin, but the establishment of a relationship of mercy and compassion that inspires sinlessness, as Jesus was sinless.

As always, it is easy to trace the mind of the Church, as expressed through its Liturgy, in the Preface. Structure: two Sunday Prefaces, and two weekday Prefaces.

First Sunday Preface

Theme: the internal nature of the discipline: "By your gracious gift each year, your faithful await the sacred paschal feasts with joy of minds made pure."

Second Sunday Preface

Theme: the purpose of the discipline: For you have given your children a sacred time for the renewing and purifying of their hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that endure eternally."

The Mercy of Compassion (Workshop 13)

Notes from “The Mercy of Compassion: Stepping into the others’ shoes” provided by Br Harry Prout fms

The Neighbourhood of Heidelberg West

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 Census Data, provides sufficient information to conclude that the Heidelberg West area is one of the poorest areas in Greater Melbourne.

The Olympic Village neighbourhood of Heidelberg West is still home to

- many generationally welfare dependent families and individuals
- single parents, grandparents rearing their grandchildren
- those with physical and intellectual disabilities,
- many suffering the isolation of mental illness,
- those with addictions to prescribed and non-prescribed drugs, alcohol and gambling,
- to refugees.... mostly from Africa and the Middle East,
- to unemployed and to
- isolated elderly pensioners

Many youth and children in the Village are severely at risk because of violence, lack of security, poor nutrition and hygiene, lack of opportunity for safe and healthy recreational activities, poor role modelling and through poverty itself. This poverty is not just economic... it is also emotional, educational, social and spiritual.

The Olympic Village Exodus Community

Established in 1998, members of the Olympic Village Exodus Community strive to:

- Journey with the people of West Heidelberg and with each other, listening deeply to the needs of the people and responding with initiatives.
- Be a compassionate presence of church and a community of good news.
- Be a prophetic community of faith within the catholic tradition which welcomes people of all backgrounds.
- Be a community where members collaborate on an equal basis while recognising individuals’ gifts and supporting each other.
- Live a simple lifestyle and promote a sound ecology.
- Empower the local people by building with them structures of justice, peace, mercy and leadership.
- Be accountable for the ministry of the Community.

Today the Exodus Community’s 50 volunteers continue to adopt an attitude of walking with members of the Olympic Village neighbourhood as together we journey through the struggles and joys of life.

We listen deeply to the needs of the people and respond with appropriate initiatives.

Exodus Community ministries, programs and services focus on providing important life skills for the families and children living in our neighbourhood.

Exodus is a faith community of Christian witness.

Some Useful Links

- Official Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy website & Facebook page:
<http://www.im.va/>
<https://www.facebook.com/JubileeYearOfMercy>
- Official Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy website - Calendar of events:
<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/roma/grandi-eventi.html>
- *Misericordiae Vultus* Papal Bull of Indiction for the Year of Mercy (Twenty Third Publications):
http://pastoralplanning.com/Jubilee/The_Face_of_Mercy_reading_guide.pdf
- Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne):
<http://www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Resources/Year-of-Mercy>
- Australian Catholic Social Justice Council
www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au
- Office for Justice and Peace (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne)
www.cam.org.au/justice
- Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office
www.acmro.catholic.org.au
- Welcome the Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program
www.css.org.au/Welcome-The-Asylum-Seeker-Parish-Support
- Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum
www.capsa.org.au
- Caritas Australia: The Catholic agency for international aid and development
www.caritas.org.au
- CatholicCare
www.ccam.org.au
- Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans
www.acrath.org.au
- The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Program
www.basp.org.au
- Kids learn about Pope Francis
<https://kidsquizthepope.wordpress.com/facts-about-pope-francis/>
- Learn about the life of Pope Francis (animation)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rHL4P1_GFM&feature=youtu.be

Mercy Themes in Liturgy with Children

Taken from *Celebrating with Children* (Vol. 2: Readings) By Borg, Kelly and Lucas. The full resource is available for purchase through St Paul's Publications. For more information visit www.stpauls.com.au.

ASH WEDNESDAY

First Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20, 6: 1-2 (Make friends with God)
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 51:1-3
Response	Forgive our sins, O Lord
Gospel Acclamation	Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. "I want sinners to come back to me," says the Lord. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Gospel	Luke 5: 27-32 (Jesus came not to call the good people but sinners to conversion)

SORROW

First Reading	Hosea 14:2-4 (Come back to the Lord)
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 51:1, 3-4
Response	Be merciful to me, O God
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! "I will get up and go to my Father and say, 'I have sinned.'" Alleluia!
Gospel	Luke 15:11-20 (The son decides to return to his father)

FORGIVENESS

First Reading	2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (God is making all people his friends)
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 51:7-10
Response	We will be whiter than snow
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! "This son of mine was dead but now he is alive." Alleluia!
Gospel	Luke 15:17-24 (The father welcomes back his son that was lost)

COMPASSION

First Reading	Isaiah 41:8-10,13 (God gives his people strength)
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 116:5-7
Response	Our God is compassionate
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! "Jesus has done wonderful things for us." Alleluia!
Gospel	Luke 13:10-13 (Jesus heals the crippled woman)

Walking Into Mercy: Pilgrimage to St Patrick's Cathedral *Sunday 13 December 2015, from 2.30pm*

OPENING THE DOOR OF MERCY IN MELBOURNE

To mark the opening of the Jubilee here in Melbourne, a special holy door of mercy will be opened by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 13th December at 2.30pm. Individuals and groups from around the archdiocese are invited to make a special pilgrimage to the Cathedral, as an outward sign of solidarity with those most in need of God's endless mercy and compassion. Following the opening of the door of mercy, Archbishop Hart will lead a prayer service and commissioning. Each pilgrim is invited to carry a photo of someone who has been merciful to them, or someone they wish to pray for during this Jubilee, and place it on a 'wall of mercy' upon arrival at the Cathedral.

Full details of the program will be made available closer to the date on the AOFE website:
www.cam.org.au/evangelisation

TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR PILGRIMAGE

Be Realistic & Plan Ahead

For most parishes, the distance from the parish to St Patrick's Cathedral would be a long walk. So, consider a mixture of public transport and walking to make the journey more manageable and comfortable. This could mean meeting at the closest railway station to your parish/school at a set time, journeying by train to Southern Cross, Richmond/North Richmond or Jolimont Stations, and then walking together to the Cathedral.

Dream big!

Perhaps you or a few in your group are after a *real* challenge – so you might plan a more “substantial” pilgrimage walk from your parish/school to St Patrick's Cathedral. You might even stop at other places along the way to pick up additional ‘pilgrims’. This would require some additional

planning. You could also plan to have a lunch stop at a location with easy parking/public transport, so people could join you just for the second half of the pilgrimage if the entire distance is too difficult.

Reach out...

...to parishes/schools nearby and consider ‘teaming up’ to pilgrimage into the Cathedral! This could be an excellent way of ‘meeting the neighbours’ and sharing the workload in preparations. Your parish or school might only have a handful of people willing to join the pilgrimage, and the parish one suburb over might also have the same small group of people – but together it would make a good-sized pilgrimage group.

Get ready

Use the weeks leading up to the pilgrimage to ‘get ready’ and have small preparation walks around the parish area after weekend Mass.

Be prepared

Make sure pilgrims are prepared physically (and not just fitness-wise) to carry water, sunscreen, comfortable shoes, and rain-protection if needed (we do live in Melbourne after all!). There might also be support that could be provided on the day such as a first-aider to accompany the group (most parishes would have a nurse or other medical staff in the congregation who could be approached).

Being ‘on pilgrimage’

Think about ways to make the pilgrimage a *spiritual*, as well as a *physical* journey. Consider planning songs to sing as a group (simple songs that everyone can easily join in without the words in front of them), prayers to stop and pray at various points on the journey, or a led reflection at particular times or locations. Ask your Parish Priest if the group could be blessed at a morning Mass prior to beginning their pilgrimage. ☸

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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GET READY

1

'TASTE & SEE' YEAR OF MERCY PLANNING DAY

17 OCTOBER 2015 · CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE

A workshop day aimed at introducing the Year of Mercy and equipping parishes and schools with resources/ideas for how to enter into this Jubilee Year. Come and learn about diocesan initiatives/events, listen to speakers including internationally-acclaimed author Margaret Silf (UK), and map out your own journey during the Year of Mercy. This day is especially useful for parish priests, pastoral associates, parish councils, liturgy/RCIA groups, RE teams, social justice groups, and music ministers.

IT STARTS

2

'WALKING INTO MERCY' PILGRIMAGE TO ST PATRICK'S

13 DECEMBER 2015
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Pilgrimage to the Cathedral where like churches around the world, a holy door of mercy will be opened to officially mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Archbishop Denis Hart will lead a prayer service followed by a picnic in the Cathedral grounds. Each 'pilgrim' is invited to bring a photo of someone who has been merciful to them or someone they wish to pray for during the Year, and place it on a 'wall of mercy' along the outside of the Cathedral.

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF Mercy

8 DECEMBER 2015 - 20 NOVEMBER 2016

A 'roadmap' to some key moments on our journey through the Year of Mercy in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. For up-to-date information on each event, keep visiting www.cam.org.au/evangelisation.

4

'24 HOURS FOR THE LORD'

4-5 MARCH 2016 · VARIOUS VENUES

In response to Pope Francis' invitation to spend time in prayer and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, parishes are encouraged to host a prayer vigil locally or come along to a central gathering at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew. There will be moments of prayer, music, and reflections provided by a variety of bishops, priests and lay people.

'KYRIE ELEISON' PENITENTIAL SERVICE

10 FEBRUARY 2016
ST MONICA'S · MOONEE PONDS

An Ash Wednesday repentance service led by Auxiliary Bishop Terry Curtin and hosted by the parishes of the Northern region. The service is open to all and will be a simple and beautiful gathering to engage local parishioners, schools, migrant groups and the community.

5

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

3 APRIL 2016
VARIOUS VENUES

There will be various celebrations across the Archdiocese to mark Divine Mercy Sunday. Visit the AOFE website for more details.

6

TIME OUT! WHERE IS THIS JOURNEY LEADING US?

WORKSHOPS FOR REFLECTION & ACTION

APRIL 2016

"The Medicine of Mercy"
with Baroness Sheila Hollins (UK)

JUNE 2016

"Creating a Culture of Mercy in Public Life"
with Nathan Schneider (USA)

JULY 2016

"Mercy and Truth: Healing Alienation
in our Church and World"
with Msgr. Prof. Tomáš Halík (PRAGUE)

SEPTEMBER 2016

"A Spirituality of Mercy:
Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parish Life"
with Suzanne Timoney (USA)

PENTECOST

15 MAY 2016
EASTERN REGION

A gathering to especially engage the youth in the Year of Mercy! Join us for a special Mass and prayer rally with live music. A collaboration with the ONE worship team (a charismatic-based group of the MGLs and CCR). Includes reflections from Auxiliary Bishop Mark Edwards.

7

8

'MARY AS A MODEL OF MERCY'

15 AUGUST 2016 · ST MARY'S DANDENONG

We look to Our Lady the mother of Jesus as a model of mercy. Parishes, schools, and groups in the Southern region of the Archdiocese are invited for a gathering and walking rosary on the weekend of the Feast of the Assumption. Led by Auxiliary Bishop Peter Elliott.

9

'THE PARISH AS A CENTRE OF MERCY' ... WHERE TO NOW?

OCTOBER 2016
WESTERN REGION

As we approach the conclusion of the Year of Mercy we reflect on its impact and plan the way forward. This session is of particular interest to parish pastoral councils as it will include parish 'stories of practice' and input from Auxiliary Bishop Vincent Long OFMconv.

10

'COME AS YOU ARE' YEAR OF MERCY CLOSING EVENT

20 NOVEMBER 2016
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

We gather once again as an Archdiocese to conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, with a special focus on our community's 'mercy makers', e.g. those working in aged care, prison ministry, Vinnies, refugee support and many more. Celebrations to be led by Archbishop Denis Hart.

GO FORTH

EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE

YEAR

PILGRIMAGE

DOOR

Mercy

CALL

GRACE

ENCOUNTER

ACTION

SOLIDARITY

UNITY