

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER



Arundel & Brighton

The Year

of

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

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.

For the Jubilee Year of Mercy

(Provided by the Catholic Schools Service, DABCEC)

Lord Jesus,

You have taught us how to forgive,
just like God our Father in heaven forgives.

You have told us that if we are more like you,
then we will be free from sin.

Help us to know the great gifts of mercy and forgiveness that God has given
us because He loves us so much.

Guide us every day so that we can show a kind and loving face
to everyone we meet, even if they have made the wrong choices.

Show us how to reach out to the poor and needy both near and far.

Send the light of the Holy Spirit to bless us all during this Jubilee Year, so that
we can go out and spread the Good News of God's mercy and love to all
those who live in darkness,
for you are Lord forever and ever

Amen.

Mary, Mother of Mercy *Pray for us*

Merciful Like the Father

(Provided by the Catholic Schools Service, DABCEC)

Merciful Father,

Encourage us to

Reach out to others with

Care and kindness.

Inspire us to be the

Face of Jesus in our world.

Use us, teach us, help us to be merciful

Like the Father.

Amen.

HOLY DOORS, PILGRIMAGES & MISSIONS

“On the ... the Third Sunday of Advent, the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome – that is, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran – will be opened. In the following weeks, the Holy Doors of the other Papal Basilicas will be opened. On the same Sunday, I will announce that in every local church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area – or, alternatively, at the co-cathedral or another church of special significance, a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year. At the discretion of the local ordinary, a similar door may be opened at any shrine frequented by large groups of pilgrims, since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion. Every Particular Church, therefore, will be directly involved in living out this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal. Thus the Jubilee will be celebrated both in Rome and in the Particular Churches as a visible sign of the Church’s universal communion.

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.¹

HOLY DOORS

The ancient tradition of passing through the Holy Door is a symbolic act by pilgrims and dates back many centuries. The symbolism evokes the passage from sin to grace and reminds us that Jesus is ‘the door’.² As we cross the threshold we embrace a new life of grace and hope and reconciliation.

The Holy Door, or Porta Sancta, is normally sealed shut from the inside and only opened during Holy Years, during which a plenary indulgence may be gained. Each of the four basilicas of Rome has a Holy Door and the Pope has extended this privilege to the Cathedrals of the world and designated shrines during the Holy Year of Mercy.

Given the size of the Diocese and the desirability of enabling people to make a pilgrimage with relative ease and frequency, Holy Doors will be opened at four places across the Diocese:

The Cathedral – the Mother Church of the Diocese

The Holy Door at the Cathedral will be opened on the **3rd Sunday of Advent, the 13th December, with Mass at 5pm**. At the end of this celebration the icon of Our Lady of Consolation will be blessed and begin its journey around the Diocese. The Holy Door will be open every day from 9am until 6pm.

The Shrine of our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead - where the dedication of the Shrine expresses the Merciful intercession of Our Blessed Lady for all who turn to her.

The Holy Door at the Shrine will be opened with Mass at 10.30am on the 13th of December. The Holy Door will be open from dawn to dusk each day.

Mayfield School - a significant and historic chapel in the Eastern part of the Diocese

The Holy Door at the school will be opened with Mass celebrated at the school on Monday 11 January 2016.

The Church of Christ, the Prince of Peace, Weybridge - chosen for its location in the North of the Diocese.

¹ POPE FRANCIS, Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy *Misericordiae vultus*, n.3. (Hereafter MV)

² Jn. 10:9.

The Holy Door will be opened with Mass at 10.30am on the 13th of December. The Holy Door will be open every day from 7.30am until 10pm.

All the Holy Doors will be closed, to mark the end of the Jubilee Year, on the Solemnity of Christ the King 2016.

PILGRIMAGE

*'The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a 'viator', a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.'*³



"I encourage all in the Diocese to make pilgrimages to the places where Holy Doors are situated.

During the course of the Jubilee Year, a number of specific events will enable the family of the Diocese to come together for pilgrimage - wonderful opportunities for us to join together in prayer, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Such events will bring us together as a family, growing in mercy for each other and for the world we are called to evangelise through our action and our presence."

In addition to the Opening of the Holy Doors, the following Pilgrimages will be taking place:

Arundel Cathedral

The Good Shepherd Pilgrimage for Schools will, in the Jubilee Year, be held at the Cathedral, on 22nd June 2016.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead

The Bishop is calling on the Diocese to gather at the Shrine on the afternoon of 17th July 2016

Mayfield Covent Chapel

The Bishop is calling on the Diocese to gather at the Chapel on the afternoon of 15 October 2016.

The World Youth Day Pilgrimage

³ MV, n.14.

A group of young people from our Diocese will be travelling to Krakow from 24th July to 2nd August 2016, to join Pope Francis and many thousands of other pilgrims for World Youth Day. The theme of the pilgrimage is: *Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.*

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Bishop Richard will lead our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 28th July to 5th August. The Lourdes Pilgrimage is a very significant event in the life of the Diocese and it will be wonderful for us to gather in Lourdes in this Jubilee Year, when the theme in Lourdes will be 'Merciful like the Father'.

In this Jubilee Year, two benches in memory of Lady Sarah Clutton and placed outside the Accueil will be blessed – marking Lady Sarah's significant contribution to so many who, over the years, have experienced the Mercy of God in a particular way through their pilgrimage to Lourdes.

INDULGENCES

'A Jubilee also entails the granting of indulgences. This practice will acquire an even more important meaning in the Holy Year of Mercy. God's forgiveness knows no bounds...To live the indulgence of the Holy Year means to approach the Father's mercy with the certainty that his forgiveness extends to the entire life of the believer.'⁴

The Year of Mercy Plenary Indulgence

The Plenary Indulgence can be attained by the faithful who are truly repentant and fulfil the following conditions:

- Receiving sacramental confession
- Receiving Holy Communion
- Praying the Creed, the Our Father and the Hail Mary for the intentions of the Holy Father

If you fulfil the above conditions, you will receive a Plenary Indulgence when you perform a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door in one of the designated places:

- Arundel Cathedral
- Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead
- Church of Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge
- Mayfield Convent Chapel (by appointment)
- Any of the Holy Doors such as Westminster Cathedral or any of the four Papal Basilicas in Rome

There is alternative provision for those who are unable to leave their location through illness, age or any other cause.

ICON OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION.

⁴ MV, n.22.

*'At the foot of the Cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. Let us address her in the words of the Salve Regina, a prayer ever ancient and ever new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes upon us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her Son Jesus.'*⁵

[From para 24 of the BULL of INDICATION of the EXTRAORDINARY, JUBILEE OF MERCY, Pope Francis]



“The icon of Our Lady of Consolation, representative of the Year of Mercy, will travel around the diocese visiting schools during various weeks (see below) and local parishes at the weekend. The icon will give people access to the Year – especially in circumstances where they are unable to travel to one of the Holy Doors. There will be various resources and suggested Liturgies offered to Parishes and Schools to help make the best use of the icon. Information will also be available about its history and relevance.

I encourage those with the pastoral care of those unable to make pilgrimages or to attend Church – prisoners, those in hospital, the housebound – to ensure that they are able to join in the prayer of the Diocese during this Jubilee Year. Prayer cards, bearing the image of Our Lady of Consolation and the Jubilee Prayer will be available.”

The Icon will be visiting deaneries on the weeks below. Information confirming the individual dates for parishes and schools will be agreed nearer the time.

14 December 2015	Cathedral Deanery
28 December 2015	Lewes Deanery
11 January 2016	Brighton Deanery
25 January 2016	Eastbourne Deanery
8 February 2016	Mayfield Deanery
22 February 2016	St Leonard's Deanery
7 March 2016	Epsom Deanery
21 March 2016	Woking Deanery
4 April 2016	Guildford Deanery
18 April 2016	Redhill Deanery
2 May 2016	Crawley Deanery
16 May 2016	Worthing Deanery
30 May 2016	Weybridge Deanery

LECTIO DIVINA

⁵ MV, n.24.

“We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord’s words: Merciful like the Father. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus’s command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (cf. Lk6:27). 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.”⁶

While *Lectio Divina* is not the only way in which we can read the Scriptures and deepen our lives of prayer, the wisdom of ages has shown that it is very effective and adaptable to groups of different ages. It is very effective, also, for those who pray alone.

Resources to enable people to access *Lectio*, either for the first time or in a renewed way, will be available for all. This will include materials for those who pray alone and for the younger members of our Diocesan family.



“I encourage the practice of beginning all meetings, in schools, parishes and in Diocesan agencies and gatherings, with a period of *Lectio Divina*, either on the Gospel of the Mass of the Day or on a text suited to the meeting’s purpose.

In these ways, we shall truly contemplate the mercy of God and this prayer will be the foundation of our mercy for others and the foundation for evangelisation.”

RETREATS, CONFERENCES AND SMALL GROUPS

Advent and Lent Small Groups

The materials for Advent Small Groups will reflect on the Year of the Mercy.

Bishop Richard at St. Cuthman’s

Bishop Richard will lead two retreats at St. Cuthmans, Coolham. These will be grounded in the practice of *Lectio Divina*:

Day Retreat on Saturday 6 February 2016

2-day Retreat on 15/16 September 2016

Further details of these from: St Cuthman’s (01403 741220) or via the Diocesan Website.

For those being Confirmed during the Jubilee Year

Bishop Richard will invite the Young People being confirmed in 2016 to join him for a day of reflection, to include an experience of *Lectio Divina*. This will take place on Sunday 24 April 2016 at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge. For further details contact Jack Regan at DABCEC. Tel: 01293 651158 or Email Jack.Regan@dabnet.org

RESOURCES

⁶ MV, n.13.

The Diocesan Website will include a new section devoted to guidance and resources. It is planned that these resources will include:

- A video talk on *Lectio Divina* given by Dom. Stephen Ortiger OSB
- Podcasts prepared by Bishop Richard and others.
- Appropriately written guidance on *Lectio Divina* for those in hospital, for those in prison, for those who are housebound and for University Students.
- Resources for use both in Primary and Secondary Schools
- Materials for families advising on Scripture texts and creating family worship spaces
- The Diocesan Reader Training Sessions will incorporate *Lectio Divina*
- Resources to enable wider inclusion will be available (please contact the Diocesan Inclusion Adviser 01293 651196).

CELEBRATING RECONCILIATION

*“Reconciliation with God is made possible through the paschal mystery and the mediation of the Church. Thus God is always ready to forgive, and he never tires of forgiving in ways that are continually new and surprising. Nevertheless, all of us know well the experience of sin. We know that we are called to perfection (cf. Mt 5:48), yet we feel the heavy burden of sin. Though we feel the transforming power of grace, we also feel the effects of sin typical of our fallen state. Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of our sins remain. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives our sins, which he truly blots out; and yet sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes **indulgence** on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue left by the consequences of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.”⁷*

*“The initiative of **“24 Hours for the Lord,”** to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. 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.”⁸*



“The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful gift to us, for through the celebration of the Sacrament, we experience forgiveness and reconciliation with our brothers and sisters in the Church. Where sin is present, the witness of the whole Church is weakened, so this Sacrament, restoring our relationship with God, enables us to take our part in the Mission of the Church.

During this Year of Mercy, I invite all our churches – and especially those where we have Holy Doors – to be a focus for those who, for whatever reason, find themselves distant from the life of Faith. Let us open the doors – not only of our church buildings, but also the doors of our hearts, that we may be people who invite others to find the ‘Word who is Life’.⁹

A particular opportunity arises during the 24 Hours for the Lord. This is a time when we can encourage people to visit our churches. For some, especially those new to a church building, this may involve a simple invitation to reflect and light a candle. For many, it will be a time of prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On these occasions, especially in the larger churches in each deanery and where the Holy Door provides an opportunity for pilgrimage, Services of Reconciliation – where a Liturgy of the Word is followed by individual Confession – will be celebrated.”

FORMATION

Diocesan Youth Festival

⁷ MV, n.22.

⁸ MV, n.17.

⁹ 1 Jn. 1:1.

Taking place the weekend before *24 Hours with the Lord* the Festival will reflect on Reconciliation, offer the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament. It will introduce young people to Pope Francis' hopes for the following weekend and encourage them to take a full part in their parishes. The Festival will take place on Saturday 27 February 2016 at St. Joseph's Church & Hall, Redhill.

Small Group Lenten Materials.

For use during Lent 2016 the Small Group Materials will reflect on both the Year of Mercy and the Constitution 'Gaudium et Spes' concluding the four years of reflection in the Diocese.

Lenten Study Day

A Day of Recollection for the clergy of the Diocese, led by Mgr. John Armitage, the Director of the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, will be held at Worth Abbey on 2nd March 2016.

Materials

A variety of materials will be offered to parishes, schools and individuals (available via the website) to support preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to enable wider inclusion.

RECONCILIATION

24 hours with the Lord

It is proposed that in each Deanery there will be at least one celebration of '*24 hours with the Lord*' (March 4/5th 2016) – probably in the principal parish.

The Bishop will join three of the Deaneries for part of the 24 hours.

The various language chaplaincies could be invited to offer their services to Deaneries.

Resources will be made available to help with the planning and celebration e.g. Leaflets offering guidance in a variety of languages. The Diocesan Website will be used to promote the various venues – and the languages available.

Reconciliation Services

Each year across the parishes and Schools there are Advent and Lenten Services of Reconciliation. The facility of the Diocesan Website and other forms of publicity will be offered to schools and parishes.

Bishop Richard at the Cathedral

Bishop Richard will be available at the Cathedral for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the following dates:

20 February

8 July

10 September

8 October 2016

RESOURCES

- Liturgical suggested texts and resources
- Publicity material for use locally

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

“It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.”¹⁰



“This year has seen the request from Pope Francis that parishes welcome refugee families. The response from the Diocese to this appeal has been outstanding and our continuing response to the Refugee Crisis will see us all engaging in a corporal work of mercy that will, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, prove effective.

We must never lose sight of those in our own local communities who are living with poverty. This Jubilee Year must be a time when we redouble our efforts to reach out the disadvantaged and marginalised in our society.

We have seven prisons in the Diocese and those engaged in prison chaplaincy will be especially pleased to hear from those who wish to assist them as volunteers. Visiting prison and sharing in the celebration of Mass and assisting with prayer groups and other initiatives alongside chaplains is immensely rewarding.

I would propose that each parish engages in a review of local need. This should be accompanied by a “skills audit” in the parish community, thereby enabling parishes to be better placed to respond to the needs of the local community.”

FORMATION

Justice & Peace Assembly

On will focus on ‘What does it mean to be a Poor Church for the Poor?’ with a key talk being given by John Battle, former MP.

Grandparents’ Annual Formation Day

This is on 7 May 2016 and is likely to be themed ‘God’s Unfinished Project’. Also looking at how, in their role as grandparents, they can best support the faith development of future generations.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

¹⁰ MV, n.15.

*“And let us not forget the **spiritual works of mercy**: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.”¹¹*



“We are blessed to see so many ways in which our parish communities and our schools are engaged in the Spiritual Works of Mercy: catechesis and the teaching of our Catholic Faith through Religious Education in schools, homilies through which our communities are encouraged to respond to the call to conversion and celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, acts of forgiveness from one to another; the offering of prayer for our brothers and sisters, alive or dead.

While there is much to celebrate, there will always be more opportunities for these Spiritual Works of Mercy and I encourage everyone in the Diocese to reflect on their lives and be open to respond ever more fully to the call to these very significant works of mercy.”

Annual Formation Day

An opportunity for those who support the bereaved in parishes and in Schools: Rainbow coordinators, School, University and Prison chaplains.

Annual Grandparents Pilgrimage to Aylesford

A joint pilgrimage with Arundel & Brighton, Brentwood and Southwark dioceses on Saturday 9 July – to be shaped around the Year of Mercy. Consideration to be given to the Grandparents role in the work of mercy ‘counselling the doubtful’.

Good Shepherd Celebration

This Liturgy for schools to be based on Luke’s Gospel and themed as ‘Compassion’.

Ministry of Accompaniment

Materials will be available to encourage Godparents, Sponsors, family and friends to invite others to join them for Reconciliation Services etc.

Pastoral Letters

During the course of the Holy Year, Bishop Richard will be writing Pastoral Letters on each of the five themes of the Jubilee.

A&B News

There will be a number of articles about the Jubilee Year in our Diocesan newspaper including some by Mgr Michael Jackson.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR for THE YEAR OF MERCY

¹¹ MV, n.15.

2015

- 13th December – 5pm Opening of the Holy Door by the Bishop at Arundel Cathedral
- 13th December – 10.30am Opening of the Holy Door at Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead
- 13th December – 6pm Opening of the Holy Door at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge

2016

- 11 January Opening of the Holy Door at Mayfield Convent Chapel
- 16th January – 10-4pm Annual Justice & Peace Assembly at DABCEC
- 6th February Day Retreat led by Bishop Richard at St Cuthman's, Coolham
- 20th February Bishop Richard available for Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Cathedral
- 27th February Diocesan Youth Festival at St. Joseph's Church and Hall, Redhill
- 4th/5th March '24 Hours with the Lord' - Deanery venues (*Bishop Richard will visit three deaneries*)
- 24th April Day of Reflection with Bishop Richard for Young people being confirmed in 2016 at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge
- 7th May- 10-4pm Grandparents' Annual Formation Day at DABCEC
- 22nd June Good Shepherd Pilgrimage for Schools at Arundel Cathedral
- 8th July Bishop Richard available for Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Cathedral
- 9th July Annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage to Aylesford - joint day with Southwark and Brentwood Dioceses

17 th July	Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead
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- 24 July to 2nd August World Youth Day Pilgrimage with Pope Francis in Krakow
- 28 July to 5th August Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Bishop Richard
- 10th September Bishop Richard available for Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Cathedral

15/16 th September	2-day Retreat led by Bishop Richard at St Cuthman's, Coolham.
8 th October	Bishop Richard available for Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Cathedral
15 th October	Pilgrimage to Mayfield School Chapel
19 th October	Secondary schools' Pilgrimage to Cathedral
20 th November	Close of Year of Mercy and closing of the Holy Doors across the Diocese

DEANERY VISITS OF THE ICON

The Icon will be visiting deaneries on the weeks below.

14 December 2015	-	Cathedral Deanery
28 December 2015	-	Lewes Deanery
11 January 2016	-	Brighton Deanery
25 January 2016	-	Eastbourne Deanery
8 February 2016	-	Mayfield Deanery
22 February 2016	-	St Leonard's Deanery
7 March 2106	-	Epsom Deanery
21 March 2016	-	Woking Deanery
4 April 2016	-	Guildford Deanery
18 April 2016	-	Redhill Deanery
2 May 2016	-	Crawley Deanery
16 May 2016	-	Worthing Deanery
30 May 2016	-	Weybridge Deanery

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