

A JUBILEE RESOURCE FOR THE WEEKS OF LENT 2016



CALLED TO BE a people of

# HOPE



*"The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father!"* MV 17



# MERCIFUL like the Father

WEEK TWO  
*Jesus, the face  
of mercy*

 JUBILEE  
of MERCY  
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## WEEK TWO      JESUS, THE FACE OF MERCY

*'He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives.'*

### OPENING PRAYER

In Christ you draw near to us,  
God of mercy and compassion,  
lifting us out of death,  
binding up our wounds,  
and nursing our spirits back to health.

Let such a tenderness as yours  
compel us to go and do likewise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### WORD OF GOD

*Luke 4: 14-21*

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for he has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives  
and to the blind new sight,  
to set the downtrodden free,  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

## ALTERNATIVE READING

*Luke 9:28-36*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

REFLECTION *Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB*

*The reflection from Fr Henry is available to download from [cliftondiocese.com](http://cliftondiocese.com).  
Play the video clip [here](#).*

## QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

The merciful love of God knows no limits. Do we ever put limits on God's mercy towards ourselves or towards others?

What is God calling us to let go of or give up in order that we open ourselves to the merciful love he offers us?

What is Christ *demanding* of us in order that we might follow him in making present the merciful love of the Father?

How are we called to imitate Jesus in going out to the 'hedgerows' and 'crossroads' of today with the message of the Gospel? Where are the *peripheries* of today that we encounter people in need of mercy?

*Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the OUR FATHER.*

## FINAL PRAYER

Loving Father,  
you are a God of mercy and compassion.

We thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, into our world  
to show and teach us how to love.

When we walk through the  
Door of Mercy during this Holy Year,  
may we open our hearts to you  
so that we may reflect your love, mercy  
and compassion in our families,  
communities and parishes.

May we walk with Jesus through the 'streets of Galilee',  
comforting the sick, opening our arms  
to the 'little ones', sharing with the poor  
and searching out the marginalised in our society.

May it be a year when barriers between us fall  
and reconciliation becomes possible:  
a year when our faith in your mercy is strengthened  
and we learn how to be your face of mercy in our world.

Amen.