

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

INTRODUCTION
How to use this resource

 JUBILEE
of MERCY
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LENT 2016 INTRODUCING THIS RESOURCE

'Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's Mercy. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him.'

AN INVITATION FROM POPE FRANCIS

"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. Lk 6:27). 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."

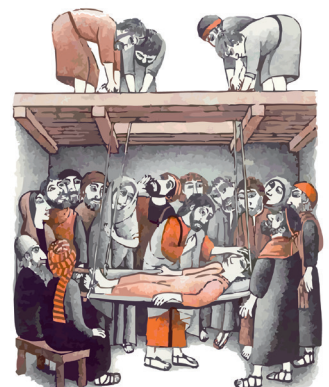
MISERICORDIAE VULTUS 13

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MV 17

"To cross the Holy Door is the sign of a true conversion of our heart. When we cross that Door it is good to remember that we must also have the door of our heart wide open. I stand before the Holy Door and I ask: "Lord, help me to open wide the door of my heart!" The Holy Year will not be very effective if the door of our heart does not let Christ pass, who pushes us to go to others, to bring Him and his love. Therefore, as the Holy Door remains open, because it is the sign of the welcome that God Himself gives us, so our door also, that of our heart, must remain wide open not to exclude anyone, not even he or she who annoys me: no one."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, 16 DECEMBER 2015



THIS LENT RESOURCE

We take up Pope Francis' invitation to live Lent with an intensity, desiring to experience and celebrate the Father's mercy. As a diocesan family, as parishes, religious communities, house groups, inter-Church Lent Groups, or as individuals and disciples we can grow in our attentiveness to the Word of God calling us deeper and deeper into the mystery and wonder of the Father's indulgent and merciful tenderness. A hope of the Jubilee is that we will be **converted** by the experience of God's mercy, adopting it – as Pope Francis reflects – as our lifestyle so as to be better at being echoes of the Father's mercy to our world and to others.

This Lenten series during this Jubilee of Mercy invites prayer, conversation, thought and reflection. Rather than trying to gather people in one place and expect people to travel, this Lent series can be used at a much more local level, *deepening prayer, enabling communion and strengthening mission.*

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This format is simple, uncomplicated and adaptable:

- Begin with **silence and prayer**
We need to ready ourselves for this time of reflection together. Allow a moment of silence to take place before whoever is leading the session makes the Sign of the Cross and leads into the Opening Prayer. Allow the group to become open and attentive to the Word that is proclaimed for us.
- **listen** to the Scriptures
A passage of Scripture has been selected for each session, some because they allow us to unfold God's mercy or because the particular Lenten Sunday Gospel reveals God's tender, merciful love. You may find that an extract of the reading is included in the session handout: the full version is available and ready to download from cliftondiocese.com
- **reflect** with Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB
Each session includes a recorded video input from Fr Henry. The session leader will need to ensure that the appropriate video file is downloaded and ready to use for each session.
- enter into **conversation**
A series of questions for conversation is included for further reflection and thought among groups. These questions might also be used by those using this resource on their own.

continued

- **listen** to/**read** the Scripture reading once more and end with prayer
*When it seems appropriate to draw the conversation to a close you may feel there is time for intercessions leading into the **Our Father**. Invite the group to pray the **Final Prayer** together.*

DOWNLOADING THE FULL RESOURCES

Downloads and resources for each session are available from the Lent 2016 pages of the Jubilee of Mercy section of the diocesan website. A full range of audio, video, and handout resources are available to enable a full and enriching participation in this reflective Lenten series. If you have difficulty in locating any of the resources for the series, please do not hesitate to contact the Department for Adult Education who will only be too happy to assist you.

- Participants worksheets for each session (pdf)
- Reflection from Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB (video)
- Scripture reading (text)
- Scripture reading (audio)
- Opening Prayer (text)
- Opening Prayer (audio)

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

Jesus stands knocking at our door asking no more than we open to him and allow him to transform our lives with the love he brings. As we allow Christ to make his home within us this Lent, let us allow ourselves to re-discover the merciful face of the Father because we know his merciful love in Jesus.