

VII

The Holy Spirit - Works of Mercy

God's first act of gratuitous merciful love was his creation of all that is. The second act of mercy was his call to share in his divine existence: our vocation to love.

In his great mercy, when we had broken the order of creation and rejected our vocation to love, he sent his Son to suffer, to die and on the third day rise again. Now, in our baptism into Christ's life we can live again in his mercy.

Through the Holy Spirit the corporal works of mercy restore the order of creation, the spiritual works of mercy restore our vocation to love and life.

Father, renew your gift of the Holy Spirit in us so we may live a life of mercy through your works of mercy.

Our Father.

*Misericordes sicut Pater!
Merciful like the Father!*

VIII

Convert - Receive Mercy!

Have I been doing the right thing all the time? Have I stopped to examine what God wants from me?

St Paul was zealous in his fierce wrath for the name of God. But Jesus intervened; dazzled by this encounter of mercy, St Paul's life changed totally.

Let us pause here. The next door is the door to the confessional. Jesus, you have brought me here; show me the way forward into your will. Help me to enter this door of mercy, to confess my sins and renew the grace of my baptism.

Our Father.

(Here we are invited, if we wish, to go to confession.)

*Misericordes sicut Pater!
Merciful like the Father!*

IX

Mary - Mother of Mercy

And he has given his mother to be our mother.

Let us cry out to our mother with the words of the *Salve Regina*:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
To thee to do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy
towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

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Merciful like the Father!*

X

Be Merciful as your Heavenly Father is Merciful

As we depart, let us carry the mercy of God in our hearts. What we have received let us bring to others. Let the work of the Holy Spirit become active in our lives.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*

To receive the plenary indulgence for the Jubilee Year of Mercy one must:

- Reflect on mercy (following The Way of Mercy for example)
- Receive Sacramental Confession
- Receive Holy Communion
- Pray for the Pope's intentions
(one Our Father and one Hail Mary will suffice)
- Recite the Creed

These conditions need to be fulfilled within several days (ie around a week) before or after visiting the Holy Door.

Way of Mercy

Simple Guide



Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy
in Westminster Cathedral

13th December 2015
to
20th November 2016

The Way of Mercy is like the Stations of the Cross. It takes us on a journey with Jesus. This journey is into his Mercy.

Begin with the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray,
Father, we ask that you help us to enter your mercy.
For you are faithful and your love is everlasting.

At each 'station',
pause,
look at the image,
read the title,
read the meditation.

Ask God to help you in your heart to hear, to listen,
and to receive the mercy he longs to pour out on
you.

Pray the Our Father.

I

The Holy Door - Door of Mercy

There are many doors mentioned in scripture: the door of the Garden of Eden, closed because of Adam's sin; the doors of hell, broken down by the Lord on Holy Saturday; the door of the tomb, thrown open on Easter Sunday.

The motifs on this door recall the blood of the sacrificial lamb of the Passover - the five diamonds representing the five wounds of the new lamb, Christ, who is the door through which we are granted admittance to the very centre of God's merciful heart, to experience his forgiveness.

Let us enter this door. Let us make this first step on the way to receiving God's mercy.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*

II

The Holy Trinity - Seat of Mercy

Who waits for us on the other side of the door?

We see a King seated in glory attended by angels; his breath - the Holy Spirit - proceeds out to the Son in an eternal movement of love. The Son, incarnate mercy, in his self-emptying (his *kenosis*) takes the lowest place, gives himself up utterly in our place, on the wood of the cross.

He has given us the cross as our ladder, our door, our entrance into the glory of the Father, into the communion of the Holy Trinity itself. And there is our place: the cloth containing the souls of the just, in the bosom of God the Father, under the wings of the Holy Spirit, above the bowed head of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*

III

The Divine Mercy

Is the glory of the Trinity too much for us to bear?

Here is a man. He is showing us his wounds. He is risen! As he appeared to doubting Thomas, Jesus enters into the closed darkness of our fears, our anguish and our suffering.

From his heart pour out two rays, the blood and water, rays of his infinite merciful love, poured out for sinners. No one is outside this mercy.

Jesus, I trust in you.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*

IV

Baptism - the Gift of Mercy

Can I remember my baptism? Have I ever seen a baptism?

Why is Jesus being baptised? John the Baptist says, "and you come to me?"

Jesus enters fully into our situation: he enters the waters of the Jordan river to take our sins, our fear of death, and to go towards the cross. We entered the waters of our baptism: *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. We entered into his death that we may leave behind our old life, and rise with him out of the waters, out of death. Claimed by God and filled with the Holy Spirit, we can live a new life as sons and daughters of God.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*

V

God the Father - the Merciful Father

But what did I do with this grace of baptism?

Did I waste it on my own satisfaction? Did I take my inheritance and squander it? Did I live it for myself? Was I abandoned, despoiled, utterly unloved or unlovable?

The Father waited outside the house. He looked every day for his son. Our Father always waits for us to turn around, to come back, to enter his embrace of mercy.

Or am I like the older brother, living in the house of the Father, working for him, but in my heart having no mercy for others? Let us all go into the house and rejoice together, for what was dead is alive, what was lost is found.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*

VI

God the Son - Mercy Incarnate

And where did he find us?

He descended into hell.

Here is Jesus, glorious, holding up the cross in triumph, trampling the shattered doors of the underworld under his feet.

He grasps his forefather Adam by the wrist, dragging him up and out of the tomb. Eve too, rises at the sound of his voice.

He has entered the lowest place, the place of utter darkness, and caught up all the dead to life.

Our Father.

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Merciful like the Father!*