

# Indulgence for the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy

With the approach of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy I would like to focus on several points which I believe require attention to enable the celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God

I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop, and in the four Papal Basilicas in Rome, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. Likewise, I dispose that the Indulgence may be obtained in the Shrines in which the Door of Mercy is open and in the churches which traditionally are identified as Jubilee Churches. It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.

Additionally, I am thinking of those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, often confined to the home. For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence. My thoughts also turn to those incarcerated. May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased.

The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe they have no other option. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father. For this reason too, I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it.

A final consideration concerns those faithful who for various reasons choose to attend churches officiated by priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X. This Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one. I establish that those who during the Holy Year of Mercy approach these priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins.

Trusting in the intercession of the Mother of Mercy, I entrust the preparations for this Extraordinary Jubilee Year to her protection.

*From the Vatican, 1 September 2015*

**Francis**

Bishop of Rome and Servant of the Servants of God

# **Special Churches within the Diocese of Middlesbrough**

---

**Cathedral – Holy Door  
St Wilfrid York – Holy Door  
St Peter Scarborough – Holy Door  
St Charles Hull – Holy Door  
St Laurence Abbey Ampleforth – Holy Door**

# **Shrines and Pilgrimage Churches in the Diocese**

---

**The Shrine of the Lady Chapel Mt Grace Osmotherly  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Market Weighton  
Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow The Shambles York  
Bl Nicholas Postgate – St Hedda Egton Bridge & St Anne Ugthorpe  
St Hilda Whitby  
St John of Beverley Beverley  
St Wilfrid Hull**

## **Prayer for the Holy Year of Mercy**

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 by 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 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.

### **The 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

bury the dead

### **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

pray for the living and the dead