



Diocese of Leeds

THE YEAR OF MERCY

Sunday 13th December 2015: Opening of the Leeds Cathedral Holy Doors by Bishop Marcus, 11:00am Mass

Friday 4th – Saturday 5th March 2016: “24 Hours for the Lord” linking in with the penitential liturgy on 4th March in St Peter’s Basilica, Rome. Parishes are encouraged to celebrate a 24 hours devotion incorporating at some point an extended period for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

April 3rd 2016: Divine Mercy Sunday, Mass celebrated by Bishop Marcus in the Cathedral at 3:00pm

Friday 22nd July to Tuesday 2nd August 2016: Diocesan youth pilgrimage to join World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland

Friday 1st to Thursday 7th July 2016: Clergy and faithful are encouraged to participate in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. The pastoral theme for the 2016 Pilgrimage is “Merciful like the Father.”

Saturday 17th September 2016: Clergy and faithful are encouraged to participate in the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.

Saturday 8th October 2016: Year of Mercy Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ripon, Mass celebrated by Bishop Marcus in Ripon Cathedral at 11:00am in honour of Our Lady and St Wilfrid.

Sunday 13th November 2016: Closing of the Leeds Cathedral Holy Doors by Bishop Marcus, 11:00am Mass

Parishes and schools are encouraged to provide as many opportunities as possible to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Vicariate for Education has many copies of “Come and be at Peace”, the resource prepared on Confession for the *Come and See* programme (these are available for parishes on a first come, first serve basis).

The Vicariate for Education is preparing a dedicated website for the Year of Mercy. This will include:

- On-line resource indicating possible sites for one or two day pilgrimages in our area – in Yorkshire and further afield to the North East (the land of Ss Bede, Aidan & Cuthbert)
- On-line resource about the Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy (including some initiatives within the Diocese)
- Other suggestions to celebrate the Year – including information from the Holy See and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
- A Prayer Card to all parishes (and schools) in the Diocese. (To be distributed after Christmas)

REVELATION This is the diocesan monthly prayer event, open to any young people aged in School Yrs 9 and above. It is held at Notre Dame College, Leeds, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and includes fun/activities, a short talk, discussion/response activity, sung worship and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Refreshments are provided and there is no cost for the event. This year the monthly themes will be based around various aspects of the Year of Mercy, including Christ as the Way ('Open the doors'), works of mercy, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, freedom, healing and forgiveness, and holiness/vocation.

A Liturgy Resource to Support Young Learners in the Understanding and Experience of Encountering Divine Mercy

The Vicariate for Education, in conjunction with Darren Sheridan (a qualified primary school teacher and proficient musician from our diocese), has produced liturgical resources for primary schools to support children in their understanding and experience of the Father's mercy as well as utilising this opportunity to help the teachers in our schools to develop their formation in the faith. The resources feature a Foreword from the Bishop.

Priests, a religious brother and sister from the Franciscans of the Renewal as well as lay people have contributed to this resource. Using the Holy Father's Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus*, the resource is divided into 12 themes – one for each month – to help children understand the

mission of this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Each liturgy starts with a scripture passage, a reflection, a note from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as well as worship and witness materials (how we can best live out our faith). There is also a section called 'Going Deeper' to support teenagers as well as staff. These liturgies are intended to be read aloud by the children in KS2; leading their school community in prayer. It would be best if each liturgy were in the local church with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; however, the liturgy may be celebrated in the school hall. There is a pro forma to support children in collective worship as well as two CDs: one which helps teach the hymns (phrase by phrase) and an orchestrated instrumental CD to aid the children in praise if they do not have proficient musicians in school.

Leeds Diocesan Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

O God, Father most merciful,
you created the world in wisdom and in love,
and you walk with your children on the journey of life,
pardoning and welcoming them always.

Your Beloved Son, the visible face of your mercy,
is present in our midst, and loves us with a heart full of merciful love,
and teaches us to be merciful and to love one another.

Grant to us your children, as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy,
an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Consoler,
that our hearts may be open to our brothers and sisters
who hunger and thirst for mercy,
and the Good News of your merciful love which endures forever,
may be always and everywhere proclaimed.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.