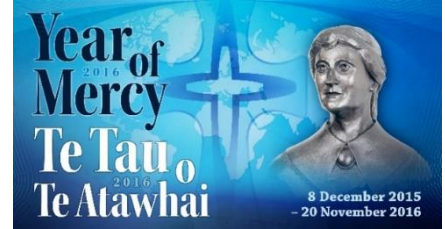


**E Whakatuwhera ana
i te Kūaha o te Atawhai**

Opening the Door of Mercy



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Karanga

Himene: Mo Maria aianeī Tena hoki nga Ahere
O tatou waiata; E whakahonore ana
Kia kaha ra tatou Ki to ratou Rehina
Kia nui te aroha (2x) Ki a Maria ano ra

Leader: The Wairua of Mercy calls us into the Year of Mercy.
E te Atua Atawhai we ask you to bless this door
(Bless the door – water and greenery)

Leader: Uakina te Kūaha o te Atawhai! Throw open the Door of Mercy.

All Respond: Me whakamoemiti tātou ki te Ariki! Let us give thanks to our God.

Leader: Let us now enter into the grace of this jubilee year singing: Bring Forth the Kingdom by Marty Haugen

1. You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Shine the flavour of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God.
Refrain:
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace,
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God.
2. You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God.
3. You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, Grow in the Kingdom of God!
4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God.
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God!

Once inside: Let us all pray together - He inoi tatou

As we enter into this Year of Mercy, bless the 'doors' of our hearts that we may be open to the call of mercy and hear *both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor*. LS #49

Surround us with mercy – *a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace*. MV #2

With gratitude, we enter into this significant moment in our time. Amen.

Leader: Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy in April of this year with *Misericordiae Vultus*. In June he set before us his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si' On Care of our Common Home*.

Let us listen to his vision for this Year of Mercy from these two documents.

Refrain following each statement: Teach me Your Ways by Frank Andersen

Akona mai, Ki te ara tika, Akona mai Matou, E te Ariki

Teach me your ways, Walk me in your pathways, Teach me your ways O Lord, For you are my God

1. How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God! (MV#5) **Refrain...**
2. In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society; fringes which modern society itself creates. (MV#15) **Refrain...**
3. During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal the wounds of *the Earth and ...the poor**, to soothe them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. (MV#15 *LS #49) **Refrain...**
4. The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us... Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. (LS#13) **Refrain...**
5. Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. (LS#66) **Refrain..**
6. Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (LS#42) **Refrain...**

Leader: In *Misericordiae Vultus* Pope Francis calls us to be merciful as God is merciful. He reminds us that in the Gospels, “Jesus of Nazareth by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God”. (MV#1)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (10: 29 – 37)

R: Glory to you Lord!

The Gospel of the Lord. **R:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

The Circle of Mercy Prayer

Leader: In this Year of Mercy we are invited to atawhai mai atawhai atu - to receive Mercy from God who is merciful, to offer this Mercy, indeed to be Mercy in response to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor. In the 44 countries where Sisters of Mercy and companions work, we are invited to light a candle and to pray Pope Francis’ Prayer for our Earth and her peoples. In each country between noon and 2 pm, Sisters and companions around the world will pray this prayer, wrapping Earth in prayer for 24 hours. (*The candle is lit*)

Let us stand and pray the ***Prayer for our Earth from Laudato SI’***.

He inoi tatou...

All-powerful God,
You are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Himene: The Servant Song by Richard Gillard

1. Will you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Blessing: He inoi tatou

Let us recognise God's abundant mercy for all and be a credible witness to
atawhai mercy in the way we live:

May we be 'merciéd' from the heart of God - **Amen**

May we be drawn into the depths of the mystery of God - **Amen**

May the great river of mercy well up and flow through us unceasingly...

Sung Amen: E pai ana, amene.

E whakahau, amene

E whakaae ana whakanuia, amene

Amen we affirm.

Amen we encourage.

Amen we bless and we celebrate, Amen © Used with permission of Cynthia Serjak rsm

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You are invited to share kai – nourishment for the journey
through the Year of Mercy.