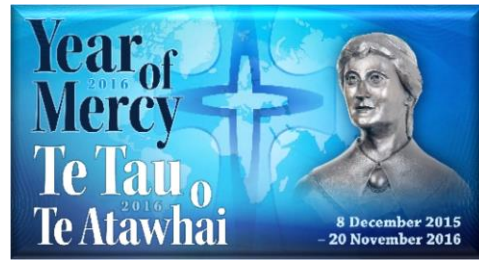


Whakamoemititia te Tau o te Atawhai

Thanksgiving for the Year of Mercy

Kia tuwhera tonu mai ngā Kūaha o te Atawhai

Keep the doors of Mercy open wide



Welcome: Nga mihi nui atawhai ki a koutou. Nga mihi ki te Whakamoemititia te Tau o te Atawhai. Welcome to this celebration of Thanksgiving for the Year of Mercy as we enter Advent.

Leader 1:

We stand on the threshold of Advent looking back in thanksgiving for the Year of Mercy. It is a year since we opened the Doors of Mercy throughout Aotearoa, Samoa and Tonga. As we reflect on the taonga of this Year of Mercy, it is in Thanksgiving, not closure that we come, for what Megan McKenna has written of the resurrection, we can say of this special year: "It is as though a door was opened, and what poured out will never be stopped, and the door cannot be closed".

Leader: We cannot close te Kūaha o te Atawhai the Door of Mercy, but cry out: Kia tuwhera tonu mai ngā Kūaha o te Atawhai - Keep the doors of Mercy open wide.

All: Kia tuwhera tonu mai ngā Kūaha o te Atawhai - Keep the doors of Mercy open wide.

Leader: We bring forward Te Ngakau Atawhai as a doorstep to be placed at the opening of our Advent wreath and a Mercy candle symbolising that we will keep the Doors of Mercy wide open – for the free gift of mercy given and received – Atawhai mai Atawhai atu.

Leader: Kia tuwhera tonu mai ngā Kūaha o te Atawhai - Keep the doors of Mercy open wide.

All: Kia tuwhera tonu mai ngā Kūaha o te Atawhai – Keep the doors of Mercy open wide.

Himene:

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.

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Leader 2: As we began Te Tau o te Atawhai, we were called to open the doors of our hearts, the doors of our homes and workplaces to hear and respond to te tangi a Papatuānuku me te tangi a hunga rawakore - the urgent cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor.

We now pray in thanksgiving for the response to this call through the Works of Mercy carried out in so many ways and in so many places - and also for the 20 groups who participated in the Mercy International Reflection Process in Aotearoa and Samoa this year. With them we pray about the issues they reflected on during Te Tau o te Atawhai, this Year of Mercy:

- That we protect vulnerable and displaced persons
- That we welcome the Stranger
Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou
- That the dignity of work is respected and Government subsidies enable people on low incomes to receive a living wage
- That acceptance of unsustainable debt is challenged, to expose the burden of financial debt on the dispossessed, and the ecological debt on the Earth
Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou
- That the concerns regarding the Marine Management Plan are taken seriously by Government in order to protect taonga resources and the customary rights of iwi as kaitiaki
- That we become kaitiaki/guardians of our underground aquifers in Canterbury
Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou
- That we protect our environment and God's creatures from the damage of plastic pollution
- That we guard against littering God's beautiful and sacred world
Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou
- That we grow in awareness of the interconnectedness of all of life and work against all homelessness in our common home
- That we strive to live sustainably within our communities
Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou
- That we value healthy communication and relationships within workplace teams
- That we hear the cry of the needy: visit the lonely, feed the hungry and clothe the poor
Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou
- That we advocate for a Home for all
- That the development of a House for homeless women in the inner Auckland city will come to fruition

Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou

He inoi tatou, we also pray:

- That the members of each of the Mercy International Reflection Process groups who have met during this Year of Mercy will be blessed and inspired to fulfil the actions they have committed to through their reflection and contemplation

Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou

- That in our ministries, workplaces, communities and homes we will grow in the many expressions of the Works of Mercy that have been part of our lives through this Year of Mercy

Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou

- That in gratitude for Pope Francis' taonga of the 8th Work of Mercy: Show Mercy to our Common Home, we will work to protect and shelter Earth from harm

Response: E te Ariki whakarongo mai ra kia matou



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Reading: The 8th Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy

It's not often that anything new is added to the great body of teaching that Catholics believe and practise. But Pope Francis did so in his message on Care for Creation. He proposed that to the time-honoured list of corporal and spiritual works of mercy, most of them drawn from the teachings of Jesus, another be added. He said, "If we look at the works of mercy as a whole, we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces.... So let me propose a complement to the two traditional sets of seven: may the works of mercy also include care for our common home."

As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for "a grateful contemplation of God's world," Pope Francis said. "As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world."

Produced by Dennis Horton for He Waka Tiaki mission team, Tiaki Manatū Sisters of Mercy New Zealand Ministries Trust © October 2016

He Inoi Tatou

Let us pray together Pope Francis' Prayer for our Earth from Laudato Si`

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: Spirit God of All Creation

We welcome Advent

Leader 3: We are gathering this afternoon to give thanks for Te Tau o te Atawhai on the Eve of Advent. Advent is a time of hope – a time to light the flame of justice, peace and mercy – a time of waiting.



We light the first candle of Advent – the candle of HOPE

In silence the Candle lighter moves to the wreath and holds up the first Advent candle and lights it from the Mercy candle

Reader: "Advent" by Daniel Berrigan

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss –
This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction –
This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever –
This is true: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world –
This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church, before we can be peacemakers.
This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young shall see visions, and your old shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for the liberation of humanity, for justice, human dignity, and peace are not meant for this Earth and for this history –
This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.
Let us see visions of love and peace, justice [and mercy].
Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ -- the Life of the world.

Source: Testimony: The Word Made Fresh, by Daniel Berrigan. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

Advent Himene: Mo Maria

Blessing: May Advent hope: light a candle where shadows fall in our lives. **Amene**
May Advent hope: call us forth in mercy to hear te tangi a Papatuānuku me te tangi a hunga rawakore - the cry of Earth and the cry of the Poor. **Amene**
May Advent hope: kia tuwhera tonu mai ngā Kūaha o te Atawhai - keep open wide our Doors of Mercy. **Amene**
May Advent hope: be known to us in Hehu Karaiti, God-with-us, to transform our living. **Amene**

Leader: E te Atua Manaaki ki a tatou katoa *May God Bless us*
All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua *Thanks be to God*