



Description of the logo

The *logo* provides a fitting summary of what the Holy Year is all about. The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (Luke 6:37-38). The logo represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption.

The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

A Year of Mercy prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father. Let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. Let everyone who approaches your minister feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Year of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord. May your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Location of the Holy Doors in the Birmingham Archdiocese

The main Holy Door is in St Chad's cathedral,
St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6EU.

For the South Warwickshire area - St Peter Apostle Catholic Church
Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AA,

Parish contacts:- Fr. John Cross and Fr. Noel Breslin 01926 423824

Email: stpetersspa@hotmail.co.uk

Parish website: www.stpetersleamington.org

For more information on the Year of Mercy see website:

www.birminghamarchdiocese.org.uk

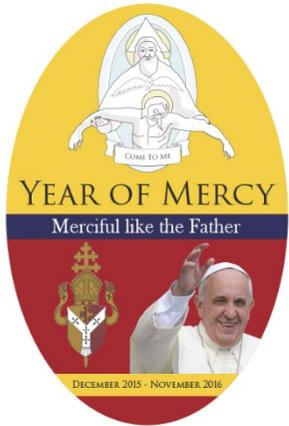


THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

DECEMBER 2015 TO NOVEMBER 2016

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy”

(Pope Francis)



“MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER”

This is the motto for the Holy Year of Mercy.

The picture shows Jesus in the arms of God the Father with the Holy Spirit in between.

Holy Year of Mercy runs from 8th December 2015 to 20th November 2016. It was established by Pope Francis and is expected to bring many blessings to mankind. His fervent desire is that that this Jubilee Year is a fresh opportunity for everyone to experience the great Mercy of God. He knows that every person, whether they think of themselves as religious or not, longs for the embrace of mercy, the love that accepts us as we are and, at the same time, calls us to become what we are made to be.

The Year of Mercy is an invitation to start again.

It is an **open door** we are invited to enter and discover the wonder of the love and mercy of God that calls out to the deepest recesses of our hearts and of our world.

To go through this door and experience the mercy of God **everyone** has to make a journey, a pilgrimage.

This may be a physical journey to one of the Doors of Mercy.

It must, however be a spiritual journey in which we look again into our hearts, feel again our longing for forgiveness, for encouragement, for a renewed and joyful faith and for a resilient hope amidst all our difficulties.

On this spiritual journey, by going through the Door of Mercy, we come face to face with our Maker, our loving Father, and come again to see the face of Jesus.

It is a time of great opportunity for us to seek to grow in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

What is a Holy, or Jubilee, Year?

In the Old Testament part of the Bible (Book of Leviticus Chapter 25 verse 10) the Israelites associated it with the time of joy and pardon.

It is a year of special solemnity and celebration.

How is the Holy Year of Mercy being celebrated?

This is being done in a number of ways, eg:-

- a) To have a **Holy Door** at the Catholic cathedral and at designated churches and shrines,
- b) To encourage people to go on **pilgrimage** as a sign of the ongoing journey of conversion and renewal to which we are all called,
- c) To encourage and promote the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. People are encouraged to have received the sacrament before going through the door,
- d) To rediscover the **corporal works of mercy**:-
Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit/heal the sick, visit the imprisoned and bury the dead. (Matthew 25: 35 to 36), and
- e) To rediscover the **spiritual works of mercy**:-
Counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill and pray for the living and the dead.

What is a Holy Door and what does it mean to go through it?

In ancient Christian times sinners were not allowed to go through the door of a church until they had their sins forgiven and completed their penance. It is an important symbolic act and Christ himself identified himself as “the door” or “the gate” (John 10:9 “*I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe.*”).

It is the passage from sin to grace that every Christian is called to accomplish.

With some courage, a person freely decides to cross the threshold leaving behind the kingdom of this world so as to enter the new life of grace of the Kingdom of God.

To obtain the Year of Mercy Plenary Indulgence

- 1) Make a pilgrimage through a Door of Mercy,
- 2) Celebrate the Sacrament of Mercy (Confession) and receive Holy Communion,
- 3) Say a prayer for the Pope’s intention:- Almighty and eternal God, have mercy on your servant our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and in your mercy direct him according to your clemency into the way of everlasting salvation; that he may desire by your grace those things that are agreeable to you, and perform them with all his strength. Though Christ our Lord. Amen.

You are encouraged to read the full document **Misericordiae Vultus** on the Vatican website www.im.va or just Google the name.