

As we contemplate the image of Mary, holding the dead Christ in her arms, we ask for the grace to forgive anyone who has hurt us, living or dead, recalling the words of Jesus on the Cross: 'Father, forgive them'. We pray before this image for all who have died, remembering those who have been part of our lives and who 'have gone before us'.

O Jesus, lover of souls, we recommend to you the souls of all those, your servants, who have departed with the sign of faith, and sleep the sleep of peace. We beseech you, O Lord and Saviour, that, as you became man, so now you would hasten the time, and admit them to your presence above.

Blessed John Henry Newman (adapted)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

7 SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Mercy in Action

The stained glass window of St Elizabeth of Hungary is in the Pietà Chapel.

The window in the Pietà Chapel shows St Elizabeth of Hungary, a saint noted for works of mercy. Although a king's daughter, Elizabeth devoted herself to caring for the poor and the sick. The legend of the miracle of the roses tells

us how, one day, when she met her husband on her way to bring food to the poor, he asked her to show him what she was carrying and, when she opened her cloak, the food in her basket had been changed into roses, a symbol of her love for the poor and a sign of God's blessing on her works of mercy.

As you come to the end of your Pilgrimage of Mercy, take some time to reflect on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and ask for the grace, during this year of Mercy, to respond to the needs of others. Pope Francis says: 'Let us rediscover 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, and bury the dead. And let us not forget 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, and pray for the living and the dead.' (MV, 15) Can you become a 'Messenger of Mercy' by practising the works of mercy as St Elizabeth did?

Lord God, you taught Saint Elizabeth of Hungary to see and reverence Christ in the poor. May her prayers help us to give constant love and service to the afflicted and the needy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Conclude your pilgrimage by saying the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory be for the Pope and his intentions.



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A PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY AT MOUNT ARGUS

How much I desire that this year will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!

Pope Francis, *Misericordiae Vultus*, 5

INTRODUCTION

The Year of Mercy is an invitation to experience God's mercy in our own lives and to bring that mercy to others. At the heart of the Year of Mercy is the call of Jesus to conversion and his love for those in need of his compassion and forgiveness. A sign of this love is the Jubilee Indulgence, of which Pope Francis says: 'I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each person, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed.' (Letter of Pope Francis granting the indulgence for the Jubilee of Mercy)

To gain the Jubilee Indulgence, we celebrate the following:

- 1 A pilgrimage to the Door of Mercy
- 2 The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 3 The reception of the Holy Eucharist
- 4 A reflection on Mercy
- 5 The Profession of Faith
- 6 Prayer for the Pope and his Intentions

On this Pilgrimage of Mercy at Mount Argus, you may not have the time or opportunity to receive Confession and Holy Communion; it is sufficient to do so within a reasonable time.

Our Pilgrimage of Mercy has seven stations. As we walk from one station to the next, we reflect on the meaning of God's mercy and we pray for our own needs and the needs of those who trust in our prayers.

1 THE DOOR OF MERCY

The Merciful Father welcomes us

The Door of Mercy is the side door, beside the Cemetery of the Passionist Community.

Then he came to his senses and said, '...I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son....' While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. (Luke 15: 18-20)

Opening the Holy Door at St Peter's in Rome, Pope Francis said: 'To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them.' This Door of Mercy is like the arms of the Father who welcomes the prodigal son. Think of the joy that is in the Father's heart as he sees you pass through the Door of Mercy. As you bless yourself with the Holy Water, pray that God may be merciful to you, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

eration to generation' (Lk 1:50). We too were included in those prophetic words of the Virgin Mary.

Pope Francis *MV*, 24

Here we see Mary seated, with the child Jesus on her lap. She looks with love at her Son, who reaches out a hand to us in a gesture of blessing and forgiveness. As we pray before this image of the Mother of Jesus, we remember parents and families. We ask Mary to lead them to her Son.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

4 THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Renewing our Baptism through Reconciliation

The Baptismal Font is at the corresponding column on the other side of the Church.

Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.

Pope Francis, *MV*, 17

Through our Baptism we became children of God and sharers in his own life. At the Baptismal Font we thank God for the grace of our own Baptism and

also for the Sacrament of Reconciliation through which the grace of our Baptism is renewed. Pope Francis tells us that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is 'a source of liberation, rich with responsibility for overcoming obstacles and taking up the new life of Baptism again' (Pope Francis, *MV*, 18).

Take a moment to pray for the children who will be baptised at this Font. Pray also for young people, especially those who feel distanced from God and the Church, that this Year of Mercy may be for them a chance to rediscover the presence of Jesus in their lives. Renew your own Baptismal Faith with the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

5 THE SANCTUARY

The Eucharist & the Passion of Christ

Go to the centre of the Church to pray before the Tabernacle and the stained glass window of Jesus on the Cross.

The Gospel records that when Christ was dead, but still hung on the Cross, a soldier

came and pierced his side with a lance and immediately there poured out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of Baptism and the blood of the Holy Eucharist. The soldier pierced the Lord's side, and I have found the treasure and made it my own.

St John Chrysostom

The love that Jesus shows in his Passion and Death on the Cross is offered to us in Holy Communion. In the Eucharist, the mystery of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion is made present to us. As you pray before Jesus in the Tabernacle, invite him to come and live in your heart.

Body of Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, Body bowed in agony, raised upon the cross and offered for us in sacrifice, Body pierced and flowing with blood and water, come at the hour of our death as our living bread, the foretaste of eternal glory: come, Lord Jesus, loving and gracious Son of Mary.

6 THE PIETÀ CHAPEL

Remembering those who have died

The Pietà Chapel is near the main entrance to the Church on the left hand side as you approach it from the Sanctuary.

At the foot of the Cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy towards those who crucified him show us the point to which the mercy of God can reach.

Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception.

Pope Francis, *MV*, 24

3 MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

The Mother of Mercy

The statue of Mary, Mother of Mercy faces the shrine of St Charles.

Mary treasured divine mercy in her heart in perfect harmony with her Son Jesus. Her hymn of praise, sung at the threshold of the home of Elizabeth, was dedicated to the mercy of God which extends from 'gen-

2 THE SHRINE OF SAINT CHARLES

Healing in body and in spirit

The Shrine of St Charles is on the right as you enter the Church through the Door of Mercy.

St Paul calls God rich in mercy [Ephesians 2:4]. He is called the Father of Mercy and of Grace, but never the Father of Justice and Severity.

Saint Charles of Mount Argus

St Charles devoted his life to the sick and the suffering, following the example of Jesus who came to preach good news to the poor and to heal the broken-hearted (Isaiah 61:1). In this Year of Mercy, we pray to him for all those who are suffering in body or in spirit that they may experience the mercy and compassion of God.

Eternal Father, you called Saint Charles of Mount Argus to bring good news to the poor and to heal the broken hearted; you opened his eyes to see the presence of Christ crucified in those who suffer. Through his intercession, may we learn the meaning of your compassionate love for us, by experiencing the blessings of your healing power. Amen.