



# JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016



## Third Sunday in Lent — February 28, 2016

### Fridays for Mercy

In living out the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has chosen to personally enact a Work of Mercy on one Friday each month. Last month, he visited a nursing home and a home for seven patients in a permanently vegetative state.

Fridays are traditionally days of penance, in which we remember the death of Jesus for us on the cross of Calvary. In more recent years, the penitential nature of Fridays, even in Lent, has been lost. During this Year of Mercy, we can lay claim to Fridays as days in which we both experience God's mercy and enact the call to be merciful.

A venerable tradition within our faith is the practice of attending Mass on the First Friday of each month. This practice, set within devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, primarily involves attending Mass for nine First Fridays in a row. According to the visions of the Sacred Heart received by St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus promises to those who fulfil the nine First Fridays that "Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy."

Friday Mass times in Townsville: Sacred Heart Cathedral - 12.15pm; Mary Help of Christians, North Ward - 6.30am; Mary MacKillop Parish - 6.30am; Holy Family Parish - 9.00am; Holy Spirit Parish - 9.00am; St Anthony's Parish - 7.30am; St Brigid's Parish - 5.30pm.

Friday Masses in our rural parishes: Good Shepherd, Mount

Isa - 8.00am; Sacred Heart, Hughenden - 9.30am; St Columba's, Charters Towers - 9.00am; Sacred Heart, Ayr - 7.00am; St Coleman's, Home Hill - 6.30am; St Mary's, Bowen - 8.00am; St Catherine's, Proserpine - 6.30am; St Patrick's, Ingham - 7.00am.

**24 Hours for the Lord**

**Sacred Heart Cathedral**  
This Friday 9am to Saturday 12noon  
schedule: [www.tsv.catholic.org.au](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au)  
come experience an "oasis of mercy"

### Saint Katherine Drexel

Saint Katherine Drexel was born into a very wealthy Philadelphian family in 1858. She was only five weeks old when her mother died. Two years later, her father remarried. Katherine experienced a privileged upbringing, educated by private tutors and able to travel around the US and through Europe. Nevertheless, the Drexels instilled in their three daughters the importance of assisting those in need. Twice a week, the Drexel family distributed food, clothing and rent assistance form their family home. During her late teenage years, she nursed her step-mother through a three-year battle with cancer.

Katherine's father died in 1885 and left behind a considerable fortune, valued at about US\$400 million today. The vast bulk of the estate, after some specific charitable bequests, was left to his three daughters. The principal

### Saints of Mercy

was held in trust, leaving the young women with a considerable income stream, at least \$25,000 per day by today's standards.

Katherine's first passion was the plight of native Americans. She had witnessed their destitution whilst touring the US with her family in 1884. She became a major benefactor to various mission groups. When Katherine and her sisters met with Pope Leo XIII in 1887, they asked him to send missionaries to the native Americans. He responded by asking Katherine herself to become a missionary. She entered religious life (to the shock of many) and soon founded her own congregation

dedicated to native Americans and African Americans. During her lifetime, Katherine established fifty missions for native Americans in sixteen states. Her work for African Americans includes the foundation of Xavier University, the first Black University in the US, as well as a system of schools in thirteen states, forty mission centres and twenty-three rural schools. These endeavours for the betterment of African Americans met with consistent and serious threats as well as significant vandalism. But, she and her sisters were never dissuaded.

Over the course of six decades, Katherine Drexel spent about \$20 million of her own money in building schools and churches and paying the salaries of teachers and other workers. She died in 1955.

**Her feast day is March 3.**

**Work of mercy: to instruct the ignorant and bear wrongs patiently.**

# Visit THE SICK

The mercy of God reaches out to heal us. And we extend that healing outreach to the sick today. We visit and pray for their healing—not only their physical healing but also their spiritual healing. *Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick.* (James 5:14–15)

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We are called to open ourselves more and more to the action of the Holy Spirit, to offer our unreserved readiness to be instruments of God's mercy, of his tenderness, of his love for every man and every woman and especially for the poor, the outcast, and those who are distant

Pope Francis on Mercy

## Counsel the Doubtful

### Scripture Reflection

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you...Let not your hearts be troubled..." (Jn. 14:27)

### Invitation to Prayer

Lord, give me your wisdom so that I can speak words of comfort and courage to those in doubt and despair. Let me be your instrument of love, encouragement, strength, and hope.

### For Personal Reflection

When have I experienced doubt in God's presence and power, and how did those experiences lead me into deeper faith and trust?



Source: Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

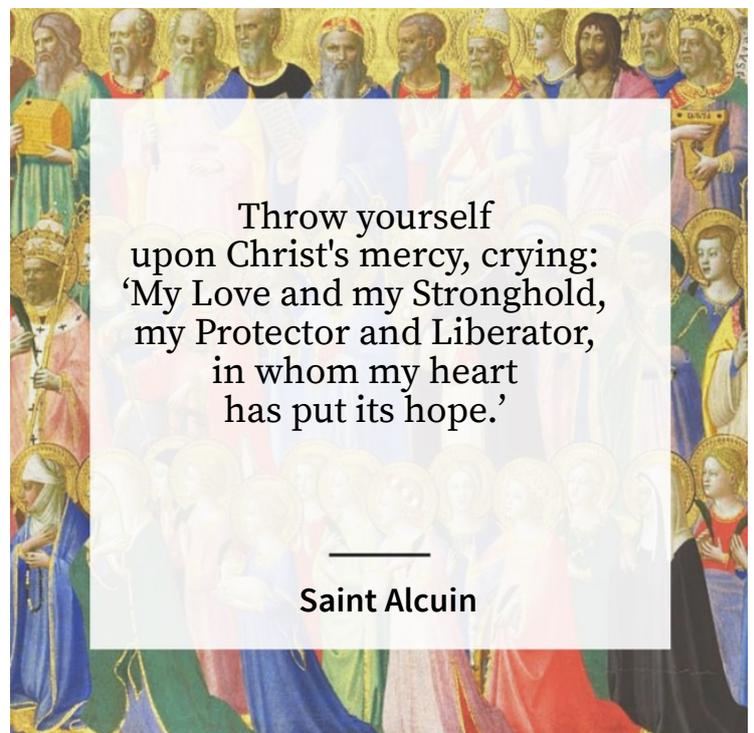
## Living the Year of Mercy



### Five Ways to Live Mercy

- 14) Offer to babysit for a busy mom to go out and have a couple of hours to herself.
- 15) Make a meal (or buy a gift certificate) for a mom who's just given birth or adopted a child, or for someone who's just gone through a loss.
- 16) Hold. Your. Tongue.
- 17) Offer to run an errand (groceries, dry cleaning pick-up, dog-walking) for a busy parent or homebound person.
- 18) If you can't sit down beside a homeless person to talk for a while today, at least send a donation to a ministry that does do this .

Source: 56 Ways to Be Merciful  
During the Jubilee Year of Mercy: [aleteia.org](http://aleteia.org)



Throw yourself upon Christ's mercy, crying: 'My Love and my Stronghold, my Protector and Liberator, in whom my heart has put its hope.'

—  
Saint Alcuin