



Jubilee Year of Mercy

8 Dec 2015—21 Nov 2016

HOLY DOOR

A special feature of every Jubilee Year is the opening of a special door at St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. This door is called The Holy Door and it is only open during a Jubilee Year.

During a Jubilee Year, the Holy Door becomes the focus of pilgrims to Rome and, by entering through the Holy Door, a pilgrim can obtain a Plenary Indulgence. For more information about the Plenary Indulgence, open up this leaflet and refer to the section on the Plenary Indulgence.

This means that passing through the Holy Door of Mercy is the same as passing through the one at St Peter's Basilica and one can also obtain a Plenary Indulgence.

Prayer for Jubilee of Mercy

(by Pope Francis, abridged)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful
like the heavenly Father.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, we ask this of You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Amen.

The Jubilee Year

The origin of Jubilee Years is found in the Old Testament in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 25. A Jubilee Year was a special year that took place every fifty years and was a special year of joy and general pardon of debts and sins.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Jubilee Year for the Church and these have been held ordinarily every fifty or twenty five years. At times, the Pope can call an extra-ordinary Jubilee Year and Pope Francis called for one on March 13, 2015 to begin on December 8, 2015, until November 20, 2016, and for this Jubilee Year to be focused on God's Mercy.

In making the announcement of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said: "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this jubilee joy to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to comfort every man and woman of our time."

The Plenary Indulgence

A plenary indulgence is the full and total remission of all temporal punishment due to sins which have been forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

One plenary indulgence can be obtained in conjunction with passing through the Holy Door of Mercy on each day of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It can be applied to oneself or for a deceased person.

In order to obtain a Plenary Indulgence in conjunction with passing through the Holy Door of Mercy, one needs to do the following within twenty days:

1. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as “Going to Confession”)
2. Receive Holy Communion at Mass
3. Recite the Nicene or Apostles’ Creed (if the Mass did not include the Creed)
4. Pray for the Pope
5. Pray for the Intentions of the Pope (one Our Father and one Hail Mary is sufficient)
6. Reflect on Mercy (during Mass is sufficient)

Reconciliation/Healing

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation
(also known as Confession)
is available at the following times:**

**Monday to Friday: 11.15am—12 noon
Saturday: 5pm—6pm**

Brief How-To Guide:

1. Begin by saying:
“Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been - (state length of time, this offers the priest some indication if you need guidance) – since my last confession. These are my sins: ...”
2. Confess the sins you have committed since your last confession.
3. The priest now offers some advice, assigns your penance and asks you to say the Act of Contrition or sorrow.



4. Say the Act of Contrition: (some examples are offered below)

i. O my God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, because you are so good and with your help I will not sin again.

ii. Lord God, in your goodness have mercy on me: do not look on my sins, but take away all my guilt. Create in me a heart of joy and renew within me the peace of your presence in my life.

iii. You may wish to pray your own prayer of sorry.

5. The priest will say the prayer of Absolution over you which will end with the words : “I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The priest says: “Go in peace”

6. Depart and do the penance given.

