



Metropolitan Cathedral
& Basilica of St Chad



The Holy Year Pilgrimage of Mercy



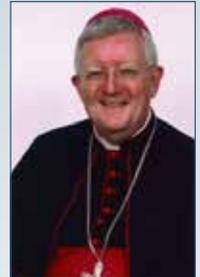
Celebrating 175 Years of Mercy in the City

A Word of Welcome

from Archbishop Bernard

Dear Pilgrim,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham and to this 'Pilgrimage of Mercy'. As the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, St Chad's seeks to offer every visitor a place of welcome, hospitality and spiritual refreshment. In this daily work, I am sincerely grateful to the Cathedral Dean, Canon Gerry Breen, together with all his staff for ensuring that such a welcome is given and hospitality made available.



On the 8th December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Catholic Church begins a Jubilee Year of Mercy, inaugurated by Pope Francis with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. On the Third Sunday of Advent, every Catholic Cathedral throughout the world has been asked to follow the example of the Holy Father by opening a 'Door of Mercy' and inviting people to step through it and begin a pilgrimage of grace.

To make a 'pilgrimage' means to undertake a journey of faith and devotion. Human experience shows us that in one way or another we plan and make journeys every day of our lives. Each one of these journeys has a beginning and an end, to which there is also a focus. As we cross the threshold of the Door of Mercy in St Chad's Cathedral, we are invited to begin a journey of faith that reflects on our understanding of mercy. Our understanding of 'Mercy' finds its true expression in God's selfless and unconditional love. Cardinal Basil Hume once wrote that, 'God's love is manifested in Jesus Christ. It is a love which is merciful, that is, one that understands the weakness of humankind.'

From the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

As you begin this 'Pilgrimage of Mercy' around St Chad's Cathedral, you will find through the use of this Pilgrimage Booklet and Pilgrim's Shell, an opportunity to explore and encounter fellow pilgrims along your journey. These are ordinary men and women who have lived extraordinary lives in the spirit of the Beatitudes and have shared the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in a very practical way. They inspire us to learn about the Christian life and offer us an insight into the power and experience of God's mercy. These include universal saints like John the Baptist and Francis, together with those on the path to sainthood and who have connections with our own Diocese: Blessed John Henry Newman, Blessed Dominic Barberi and Mother Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy with links to the Mercy Convent in Handsworth.

Through encountering these 'saints' of the Church on our journey around St Chad's Cathedral, we begin to identify living pilgrims of mercy today. We may well think of the influence and example of our own parents, teachers or priests. They in turn also help us to realise that we too are called to be Pilgrims of Mercy!

Encouraged by the prayers of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, may God bless you as this Holy Year unfolds. I pray that you will experience afresh the love and mercy of God.



✱ **Bernard Longley**
Archbishop of Birmingham

(A Work Sheet is available for School Groups from the Cathedral Heritage & Education office explaining the Coat of Arms.)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE FACE OF THE FATHER'S MERCY. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.



Photograph © Mazur/
catholicnews.org.uk

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

Misericordiae Vultus (1-3)

Introduction

by Canon Gerry Breen, Dean of St Chad's Cathedral

IN HIS WORDS OF WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF MERCY AND OUR CATHEDRAL PILGRIMAGE, Archbishop Bernard mentions the Pilgrimage Booklet, your Map for the journey, as well as the Pilgrim's Shell. Along with the display banners, depicting Pilgrims of Mercy, these will serve as sign posts to guide you. These will be of use here in the Cathedral and in your own parish church or chapel throughout the Holy Year. For our non-Christian visitors they will give you some insight into our faith and how we do our best to bear witness to it in our daily lives.

The Archbishop has placed the Diocesan celebration of this Year under the patronage of two Pilgrims of Mercy: Blessed Dominic Barberi and the Venerable Catherine McAuley. Look out for them as you go around the Cathedral.

Indeed, there is much to see, not only here in this fine Pugin Cathedral but in our home parishes where all of the sacred signs and symbols can be found, especially when we gather to celebrate the Sacraments and Holy Mass.

The purpose of this Pilgrimage is to make us more aware of the Father's Mercy in a very practical and tangible way. There are three simple steps to follow:

1. To learn about the lives of saintly and blessed Pilgrims of Mercy.
2. To recognise the presence of Pilgrims of Mercy who share our lives today.
3. Finally, to realise that you too are called to be a Pilgrim of Mercy.

There are special cards available for you to record the names of loved ones who have died, who were Pilgrims of Mercy to you by their love and sacrifice. These cards may be left in the Mercy Box by the War Memorial. They will be remembered in our Masses for Holy Souls.

As you complete your Pilgrimage around the Cathedral, you will find another Mercy Box along with cards for you to write the names of those who continue to be a Pilgrim of Mercy for you today – perhaps a parent, teacher or friend? These will be remembered in our Pilgrim Masses throughout this Year.

Pope Francis has also granted a Jubilee Indulgence for the Year of Mercy. Put simply, an Indulgence is making good the damage caused by our sins and the sins of others even when the sin has been forgiven. We know that when we say sorry after an argument, we still have to work hard to heal the hurt and repair the friendship; as the Catechism of the Church reminds us: 'Indulgences spur us to works of devotion and charity.' CCC 1478

There are three things to do to obtain the Indulgence:

1. Make a Pilgrimage through a Door of Mercy.
2. Celebrate the Sacrament of Mercy (Confession) and receive Holy Communion.
3. Recite the Creed and say a Prayer for the Pope's Intention.

Your Pilgrim's Shell will be useful for this.

The Sick and those who are Housebound

For those who will find it impossible to enter a Door of Mercy to gain the Indulgence, such as the housebound and the elderly, or those who are in hospital or incarcerated, Pope Francis makes a special concession. In his letter to the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation he writes: 'For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence'. The Vatican, 1 September 2015

This concession allows for the housebound to share in the Mass by watching 'live feeds' via the Internet from parishes who provide this service; or by following a televised Mass on channels such as EWTN.

Should this apply to any of your relatives or friends, please notify their Parish Priest or Catholic Chaplain who will ensure they receive the Sacraments of Mercy and Holy Communion.

All of the Cathedral Pilgrimage material can be viewed on our Website; and an additional booklet containing images of the display banners is available, especially for those unable to visit the Cathedral or another Jubilee Church. These are available here, or please contact the Cathedral Office for Catechesis and Liturgy.

Finally in accepting the invitation to 'be merciful like the Father', enjoy the journey!

THE LOGO OF THE JUBILEE OF MERCY was produced by a Jesuit priest, Father Marko Ivan Rupnik, well known in Lourdes for creating the mosaics of the Luminous Mysteries that adorn the façade of the Rosary Basilica.



It is presented as a little theological summary of the theme of mercy. It shows Christ carrying Adam on his shoulders, a symbol of our humanity. What was lost by the first Adam, is redeemed by the second Adam. (1 Cor. 15:47)

As the Good Shepherd, Christ takes upon himself the burden of our injured humanity not to condemn but to raise it up. Mercy is to be seen in the exchange of glances when Christ's eyes merge with those of man: through love they are restored to one another and emerge from the darkness.

Finally, the motto 'Merciful like the Father', which accompanies the logo, taken from the Gospel of Luke, suggests that our lives should be the embodiment of mercy following the example of the Father, who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to love without measure.

THE LOGO OF ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL AND MINOR BASILICA depicts a shield emblazoned with the Diocesan cross of St Chad. The shield is surmounted by the papal umbraculum (umbrella) in red and yellow as permitted to all churches designated as a basilica.



Metropolitan Cathedral & Basilica of St Chad

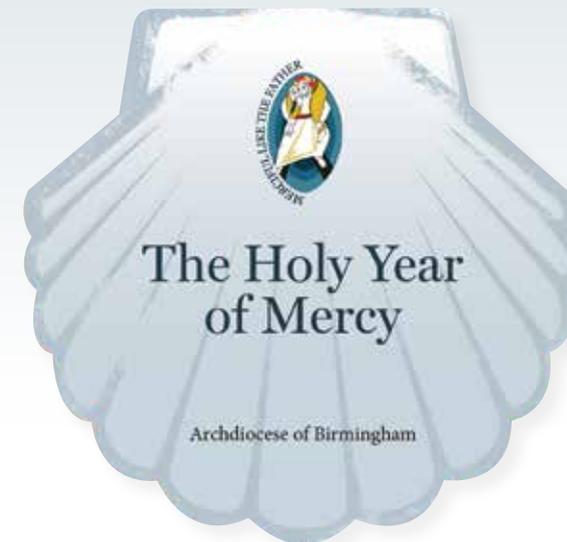
THE 175 LOGO celebrates the 175th anniversary of the Cathedral in 2016 with the line: '175 Years of Mercy in the City.'



The Pilgrim's Shell

Normally worn around the neck, is traditionally associated with the Apostle James, fisherman of Galilee and brother to John the Evangelist. The symbol of the shell is still used today by pilgrims travelling to such places as the Holy Land and Compostela in Spain. The lines on the shell converge in to a focal point, symbolising the diversity of journeys made by pilgrims, but which end in the person of Christ Jesus.

Maps and Shells are also available from the Cathedral Reception. Once you have crossed the threshold of a Door of Mercy, the remaining requirements for the Indulgence can be completed elsewhere. Your Shell will be of help to you.



Prayer of Pope Francis

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.

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.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

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.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

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.

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

Amen

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, bow.

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.

The Chapel of St Edward the Confessor

This chapel was designed by Pugin's grandson, Sebastian Pugin Powell, and consecrated in 1933 in memory of Archbishop Edward Ilsley (1838-1926) the 2nd Bishop of Birmingham who became our 1st Archbishop. The windows tell the fascinating journey of the relics of St Chad from Lichfield (1538) to Birmingham (1841).

St Edward (1003-1066) is the only king of England to be canonised. He earned the name 'the Confessor' because of his piety and detachment from worldly things. He was known for his compassion and mercy.

'Through a worthy and just rule,
Edward worked for the glory of the Lord,
serving the poor,
and enacting social change.'

Pray for Elizabeth, our Queen, and all who serve
in local and national government.
That they may they defend the common good
and enact laws that protect
the most vulnerable in our society.

Blessed Dominic Barberi (1792-1849) Apostle of Mercy to England, an Italian Passionist. He established his first monastery at Aston Hall in Staffordshire, which is depicted in the windows of this chapel as one of the hiding places for the relics of St Chad.

Blessed Dominic received Blessed John Henry Newman into the Church in 1845. Newman records: 'Father Dominic came at night. I began my confession to him.' Two great Blesseds of our Diocese united by the Sacrament of Mercy.

Say a prayer for the men and women who serve God's people in the
Religious Life and as Missionaries. Pray also for the unity of all Christians.
'Father, may they be one in us' *John 17:21*

Pray that Blessed Dominic may be raised to the Altar of the Saints

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
- bury the dead

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
- pray for the living and the dead

Venerable Catherine McAuley (1778-1841) was born in Dublin and she founded the Religious Sisters of Mercy opening their first House of Mercy in 1827, dedicated to Mary, Mother of Mercy, to provide educational, religious, and social services for poor women and children. 'Nuns' were normally confined to their convents, but the Sisters of Mercy were out amongst the poor and became known as the 'Walking Nuns.' The Church eventually approved of their Apostolate of Mercy in 1831.

In 1840 Bishop Nicholas Wiseman (later Cardinal) when Coadjutor to Bishop Walsh, received Catherine to open a foundation in Birmingham so that the poor of our industrial city may benefit from their presence and works of mercy. John Hardman, whose company is responsible for much of the interior of the Cathedral, gave land opposite his house in Handsworth for a convent to be built to a design by Pugin. Hardman's daughter Juliana became the first Mother Superior.

Sacrament of Mercy, Confession

Catherine agreed to a foundation in August 1841 shortly after the opening of St Chad's Cathedral. She died in the November of the same year, and so we celebrate the 175th anniversary of her death in this Year of Mercy.

She had the humility to say:

'The Order is God's work - not mine.
It will do just as well without me.'

The Sisters of Mercy are still based at St Mary's Convent, and the Hardman family home is now the presbytery for St Francis' church.

Say a prayer in thanksgiving for the continued presence of the 'Walking Nuns' in our city; and pray for the beatification of Venerable Mother Catherine.

Make Mother Catherine's prayer your own:

'Suscipe'
(Act of Resignation)

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.
Teach me to cast myself entirely
into the arms of your loving Providence
with a lively, unlimited confidence in
your compassionate tender piety.

Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,
that whatever you ordain or permit
may be acceptable to me.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety;
let nothing sadden me but sin,
nothing delight me
but the hope of coming to the possession of You
my God and my all,
in your everlasting Kingdom.
Amen.

Venerable Catherine McAuley

St John Mary Vianney (1786-1859) also known as the 'Curé d'Ars', is the patron saint of Parish Priests. He struggled with his studies for the priesthood, and was even drafted into Napoleon's army. As a priest he became so well known as a Confessor that special trains were laid on to take people to his parish, as many as 20,000 each year. He often spent 12 hours a day in the confessional.

Pray the following prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
the kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) founder of the Redemptorist Congregation and patron saint of confessors, moral theologians and the lay apostolate. Originally, he qualified as a lawyer; but having worked in hospitals with very sick people he decided to become a priest. As a priest he fed the poor, and instructed families in the faith as well as men training for the priesthood. He became seriously ill with rheumatism, which left him so bent over that he had to use tubes to breathe.

'God, the Father of mercies,
through the death and resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and sent the Holy Spirit among us
for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God give us pardon and peace.'

The Rite of Penance.

As well as making a good confession, please pray for your parish priest.

Pray for those in formation for the priesthood, the diaconate and the religious life.

Pray for vocations: that more men and women will
respond with generosity to be Ministers of Mercy.

The Chapel of the Holy Oils & The Shrine of Blessed John Henry Newman

Originally the Baptistery, now the Chapel of the Holy Oils, which are reserved in their Pugin flasks and casket. It is also the Shrine of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman.

The three Holy Oils are used in the various Sacraments to remind us of the healing and empowering presence of the Risen Christ. The Sacraments embrace us at the most important times of our Christian journey: from our Baptism to the end of our earthly pilgrimage and many stages in between. Anointing signifies a new beginning, and being set apart for a new purpose.

The Oil of Baptism and the Oil of the Sick are blessed by the Archbishop during the Mass of Holy Chrism, and the Oil of Chrism is consecrated at the same celebration.

The Oil of Baptism (Catechumens) is used, as its name indicates, in the Baptism of children and adults as they are set apart from original sin and become members of God's family. Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation and Mercy.

The Oil of Chrism (Sacrum Chrisma) is used to anoint the newly baptised; to seal candidates for Confirmation; and to anoint the hands of priests and the heads of Bishops at ordination. This oil is also used for the consecration of churches and altars.

The Oil of the Sick (Infirmorum) as its name suggests, is used to bring comfort and forgiveness to those who are troubled in mind or in body, and for those who are dying.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom
Understanding
Counsel
Fortitude
Knowledge
Piety
Fear of the Lord

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Charity
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Generosity
Gentleness
Faithfulness
Modesty
Self-Control
Chastity

‘The specific vocation of pastors and sacred ministers is to make visible, particularly through the celebration of the sacraments and the words and gestures of the liturgy, the Father's mercy and his care for each of his children expressed in the gift of sacramental grace.’

PRLJ Celebrating Mercy p19

Blessed John Henry (1801-1890) was one of the great intellectuals of the 19th century who founded the Birmingham Oratory in 1848 and ministered to the poor and the sick of the city. He also preached in this Cathedral.

He was a powerful advocate for an educated laity who could speak confidently about their faith, from the most academic to the poorest in the city.

He was beatified at nearby Cofton Park by Pope Benedict XVI during his pastoral visit to the United Kingdom in 2010.

The Shrine to Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman contains a lock of his hair; one of his skullcaps (zucchetto) and his Bishop's ring, which once belonged to Bishop William Ullathorne OSB (1806-1889) the 1st Bishop of Birmingham.

St Patrick (5th Century) was a missionary to Ireland. Once kidnapped by pirates and then taken to Ireland as a slave, he later returned to Ireland to preach the Gospel. The east window in the Chapel of the Oils is dedicated to him, and depicts scenes from his life, including St Patrick teaching children and baptising them.

As we think about the Oil of Baptism and the Oil of Sacred Chrism pray for those who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Pray for our priests, deacons, teachers and catechists.

For the Oil of the Sick remember those at home or in hospital who are sick or dying. Pray also for our hospital chaplains, doctors, nurses and care assistants.

Pray that Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman will be raised to the Altar of the Saints.

The Baptismal Font

The font, originally housed within the Baptistry, was designed by Pugin and depicts the four symbols of the Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John on its sides.

It is through the waters of Baptism that we are made members of God's family. Through the pouring of water and the grace of the Holy Spirit, we are baptised by the priest or deacon with the words:

**N. I baptise you,
in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Recall your Baptism by putting your hand in the font and making the Sign of the Cross with Holy Water.



The Paschal Candle

At the end of Holy Week, the Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit outside the Cathedral from the Easter Fire at the start of the Easter Vigil which is known as the Mother of all Vigils.

As it is carried into the Cathedral we sing 'Lumen Christi' – 'the Light of Christ'. This reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World who came to dispel the darkness of sin, fear and anxiety; and the greatest darkness he overcame in his Resurrection is that of our eternal dying.

At our Baptism, our Godparents are handed a candle lit from the Paschal Candle with the words: 'Receive the Light of Christ.' A prayer is added reminding us to 'keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.'

Pray for your parents and God parents; or those catechists who accompanied and prepared you for Baptism as an adult.

The Statue of The Sacred Heart of Jesus



The recently restored statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was made in Munich and gifted to the Cathedral by Bishop Edward Ilsley in 1873.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the symbol of God's love and mercy for all humanity.

St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) was a sister of the religious order of the Visitation who received visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She fostered devotion to the Sacred Heart and promoted the Nine Friday Novenas.

'Sinners shall find in My Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy.'

The 6th promise to Margaret Mary

'Come to me all you who labour and overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yolk and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Mk. 1:8

Pray or sing this verse from the familiar hymn: *Sweet Heart of Jesus*.

'Sweet heart of Jesus,
fount of love and mercy,
today we come, thy blessing to implore;
O touch our hearts,
so cold and so ungrateful,
and make them, Lord,
thine own for evermore.'

*'Sweet heart of Jesus, we implore,
O make us love thee more and more.'*

St Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, a visionary of Christ who received his message of Mercy for all people.

Pope Francis announced the Holy Year of Mercy on the Feast of The Divine Mercy, the Second Sunday of Easter 2015.

The following is from St Faustina's visions, as simple as A, B, C:

A Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His Mercy out upon us and the whole world.

B Be merciful. God wants us to receive His Mercy and for us to extend it to others in love and forgiveness.

C Completely trust Jesus. The graces of His Mercy depend on our trust. The more we trust Jesus, the more we will receive.

The window above the image of the Divine Mercy was presented to the Lady Chapel by the boys and girls of St. Chad's Poor-Schools in 1884. Some of the children are represented in the window itself.

Repeat three times the Divine Mercy Prayer:

**'For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have Mercy on us and on the whole world.'**

Also, say a prayer to thank God for your school; and remember to pray for those children in the world who do not have a school or access to education.

The Image of Divine Mercy

'Jesus I trust in You'

As Christ revealed to St Faustina:

"The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at the time My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross."



The Statue of Our Lady

The Lady Statue is an ancient oak carving from Germany. It was a personal gift from Pugin to the Cathedral, and is said to be the first image of the Blessed Virgin set up for public veneration in England since the Reformation.

‘My thoughts now turn
to the Mother of Mercy.
May the sweetness of her countenance
watch over us in this Holy Year,
so that all of us may rediscover the
joy of God’s tenderness.’

MV24

The Lady Chapel

The altar and reredos are carved in stone. The frontal depicts the Birth of Our Lord; the Presentation in the Temple and the Visitation of the Magi. The reredos shows Our Lady in the centre flanked by images of the Visitation to Elizabeth and the Annunciation. The lower reredos has images of St Mary Magdalene, St Barbara, St Cecily and St Catherine.



The Annunciation The Magnificat

The Annunciation is depicted on the Lady Altar frontal. The following is Mary’s canticle in response to the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel that she is to be the Mother of Jesus:

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
Henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Lk 1:46-55

Pray the Magnificat for our brothers and sisters of other faiths who also believe in one God, especially all other Christians, Jews and Muslims. For we are all Children of Abraham.

'The Word became flesh'

Jn 1:14

'No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh.'

MV 24

Pray the Hail Mary for the intentions of our Archdiocese and say the following invocation three times:

'O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.'

The Miraculous Medal

'He lived among us, and we saw his glory.'

Jn 1:14

The Presentation in the Temple

To fulfil the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph presented the child Jesus to God in the Temple, and they were greeted by the elderly Simeon and Anna.

The Nunc Dimittis

(Now let your servant depart)

This is Simeon's canticle at the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

At last, all-powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant
to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Lk 2: 29-32

As we recall Simeon and Anna, pray for all who are elderly, maybe your parents, grandparents or a neighbour? Remember also those who live alone or feel isolated. As well as praying for them, why not 'present' yourself to them by a visit and bring the light of peace and friendship into their lives?

During the Christmas Season

The Lowenthal Nativity

The Nativity used in the Cathedral was presented to the City of Birmingham by the Lowenthal Family from Germany in 2010 to mark the opening of the Frankfurt Christmas Market. At the close of the market it is displayed in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral for continued public veneration and is blessed by the Archbishop during our Mass at Midnight on the eve of Christmas.

At the end of the Christmas Season, take care not to 'pack Jesus away' with the decorations!

The Baby the Virgin lays in the wood of the manger is the Man she will receive back in her arms from the wood of the Cross.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which closes the Christmas Season, also marks the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry which culminates on Calvary.

Pope Francis reminds us that from the beginning of Jesus' ministry at the Wedding in Cana, Mary his Mother follows him 'advancing on her own pilgrimage of faith. In this way she precedes us on this pilgrimage, she accompanies and sustains us.' TGM p153

For those we miss from around the table at Christmas, possibly for the first time, remember that the Birth of Christ Jesus means that we will not know death for ever - so do celebrate Christmas with hope and joy for ourselves and those who have gone before.



The Immaculate Conception Window

This window, dedicated to John Hardman, is the most beautiful in the Cathedral. Hardman was the founder of the Cathedral choir and a long serving Cantor. He is depicted in the lower left section of the window.

‘Our Lady Conceived without Sin’ is the principal patron of our Archdiocese.

Pray the Hail Mary for the intentions of our Archdiocese and say the following invocation three times:

**‘O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.’**

The Miraculous Medal

Pray the following popular prayer to the Mother of Mercy:

**The Hail Holy Queen
(Salve Regina)**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy towards us
and after this our exile
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The Stations of the Cross

The Fourteen Stations of the Cross were designed by the famous artist Albrecht Franz Lieven de Vriendt (1843-1900) of Antwerp, and originally painted by John Hardman & Co. They were erected in 1857, but some have been moved from their original position to accommodate the addition of the St Edward’s Chapel in the 1930’s and other re-orderings since the Cathedral was first opened in 1841.

The Way of the Cross (Via Crucis) is depicted in all Catholic churches, and they are afforded special devotion during the Season of Lent when we meditate on the Passion of Christ. Through his Passion and Resurrection, Jesus is the Door of Salvation.

We have not included the Stations in our pilgrimage, but you may wish to say the following prayer after each Station.

**I love you Jesus, my love above all things:
I repent with my whole heart for having offended you.
Never permit me to separate myself from you again.
Grant that I may love you always,
and then do with me what you will.**

The Sanctuary of the Cathedral

The Cathedral sanctuary has undergone a number of changes since the Cathedral was opened. Originally it was separated from the main nave by a Rood (Cross) Screen.

The sanctuary is the most sacred and holiest part of any Cathedral or church.

The signs and symbols you find here can be found in all of our churches and chapels. Look for them in your own church or chapel.



The Crucifix

The Cross is designed by Pugin, the figure (corpus) is 15th century Flemish.

Jubilee Years were occasions to cancel debts. For centuries people offered sacrifices and holocausts to atone for their sins in the hope of appeasing God and securing his mercy and forgiveness.

Jesus replaces this by offering his own body, once and for all on the Cross. He is 'The Sacrifice' and atonement for our sins to reconcile us to God and to one another.

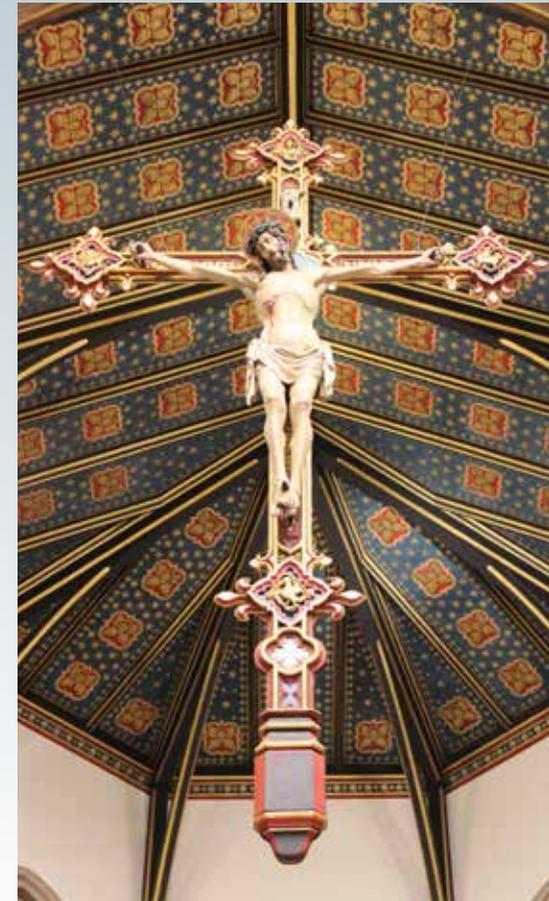
'When they came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.'

Jn 19:33

This spear opened the first Door of Mercy, the Sacramental source of the life of the Church.

Say the following Memorial Acclamation from the Mass:

'Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.'



The Altar

'The Table of Mercy'

The central altar is as recent as 2003 and was designed in French limestone by Peter Brownhill.

The Catechism reminds us: 'the altar of the New Covenant is the Lord's Cross, from which the sacraments of the Paschal mystery flow. On the altar, which is the centre of the church, the sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs in every celebration of Mass. The altar is also the table of the Lord, to which the people of God are invited.'

CCC 1182ff

Read the words of Institution from the Mass; and listen carefully to them next time you go to Mass.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and eat it,
for this is my body,
which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,

He took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it,
for this is the chalice of my blood,
the blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which will be poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

The Shrine of St Chad

The scarlet and gold baldachino above the high altar houses a gilded casket designed by Pugin from the Venerable Bede's description of the original shrine of St Chad at Lichfield. The casket contains the relics of St Chad. The journey of the relics from 1538 to 1841 is told in the windows of St Edward's Chapel.



The Tabernacle & the Seat of Mercy

The Tabernacle on the high altar was designed by Joseph Aloysius Pippet in 1870 in the Arts & Crafts style. The doors depict the Agony in the Garden.

The word tabernacle means 'a tent or place of meeting'. The Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament is believed to have contained the 10 Commandments which God gave to Moses and was housed in a 'tent of meeting'. The Book of Exodus tells us that the Ark was crowned by a Mercy Seat. 'With the sprinkling of blood on the Day of Atonement, a Holy God met sinful man on the Mercy Seat.' *Ex 25; 17-22*

Upon His throne of Grace, God met sinful man on Calvary, and as we read in the Letter to the Hebrews: 'Christ has entered the more perfect tent, once and for all, a Sanctuary not made by human hands, taking with him his blood, having won an eternal redemption. Christ Jesus is now the Mercy Seat, in whom we come face to face with God'. *Hebrews 9*

The Immaculate Conception Window traces the 'dwelling place' of God from the Old Testament Tabernacle to the presence of His Son in the womb of Mary who becomes the new Tabernacle of the Lord.

The Tabernacle is the most sacred place in any church or Cathedral as it is the 'dwelling place' of the Lord truly present, Body, Soul and Divinity, in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. The red sanctuary lamp reminds us that he is here with us.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved that it may be taken to the sick and the dying as viaticum (food for the final journey). It also allows people to 'come into the presence of the Lord' for quiet adoration and prayer.

Look for the sanctuary lamp in your church and the Tabernacle. Also, pray the following invocation three times:

O Sacrament most Holy,
O Sacrament Divine,
all praise and all thanksgiving,
be every moment Thine.



The Lectern

The Lectern (ambo) is modern and designed by Peter Brownhill in 2003 to match the central altar.

The Catechism reminds us that 'The dignity of the Word of God requires the church to have a suitable place for announcing his message.' CCC 1184

We are both taught and challenged by the word of Scripture, and nourished and strengthened by the Living Word in the Eucharist, the Bread of Life.

Do your best to read the Scriptures during the Year of Mercy; and listen more carefully to the readings and the Gospel at Mass, so that we may be worthy to receive the Living Word, the Bread of Life, in Holy Communion.

Recall the words we say before receiving Holy Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.



The Archbishop's Throne



The furniture of the sanctuary is mainly medieval, including the Canons Stalls and the Provost's Chair, which originate from Cologne.

On the left (north) side, is the Archbishop's Throne designed by Pugin. It is also known as the Cathedra, which is the Latin word for chair, or the Greek word for seat. It is a symbol of the teaching authority of the Bishop,

as they used to sit down to teach. Cathedra is from where we get the name Cathedral, which also designates the Mother Church of a Diocese.

The two halves of the Bishop's hat, called a mitre, represent the Old and New Testaments of Sacred Scripture. An important role of the Bishop is to preach from the Scriptures and the Teachings of the Church. A Bishop also carries a crozier, pastoral staff, from the Latin for pastor or shepherd. The staff resembles a shepherd's crook, which he uses to defend the sheep; to lift them out of danger; and to call them to him by striking it on the ground.

The Pope chooses Bishops to share in the work of the Good Shepherd in a special way. They are called to be shepherds who guard the flock entrusted to them.

Jesus said 'I am the Good Shepherd', and 'I am the gate to the sheepfold, and anyone who enters through me will be safe' (Jn 10). Jesus is also the Good Shepherd who goes in search of those who stray (Mt 18:12).

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the Gate of Mercy; and the Year of Mercy is an opportunity for us who have strayed to return to the sheepfold.

Say a prayer for Archbishop Bernard Longley and his assistant Bishops: William Kenney, David McGough and Robert Byrne. Remember also our retired Bishops: Philip Pargeter and Patrick Leo McCartie who watched over the flock of Christ for many years.

The Cathedral is a Minor Basilica

The Cathedral was honoured on its centenary in 1941 by being granted the title Minor Basilica by Pope Pius XII.

The word basilica comes from the Greek for 'House of the King.' Popes have a special affiliation with Basilicas, and permit them to use particular papal symbols, such as the Crossed Keys.

St Chad's uses two papal symbols: the umbraculum (umbrella) and the tintinnabulum (bell). Historically, the umbrella was used to shade the Pope from the sun; and the bell was rung to clear a way before him in processions. The umbrella is only opened when the Pope visits, or when the See of Peter is vacant: 'Sede Vacante'.

Both symbols are displayed on the lower steps of the sanctuary for important occasions; and they will remain on show during the Year of Mercy to remind us of our communion with Pope Francis.

Say a prayer for Pope Francis.



The War Memorial

Designed by Gerald Hardman, and dedicated on Armistice Day in 1921 by Archbishop McIntyre, the 2nd Archbishop of Birmingham. The Memorial depicts the 13th Station, Jesus taken down from the Cross. It is dedicated to the 200 men and boys from the Cathedral parish who fell in the Great War (World War I). The window above shows a priest celebrating Mass for the war dead, being assisted by an altar server, painted in the likeness of one of our servers who was killed at the Front.

In the Month of the Holy Souls (November) the Memorial becomes a poignant focus as we pray for all of our loved ones who have died, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of peace and freedom. The greatest victory we celebrate is Christ conquering death through his own death and Resurrection.

Here, remember your own loved ones who have died, who were Pilgrims of Mercy to you by the sacrifices they made for your wellbeing. You are invited to write their names on the cards provided and post them in our Holy Souls Box.

Say these words taken from the 2nd Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass:

‘Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.’

Finish by saying:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.



The Act of Remembrance of the Royal British Legion

Let us remember before God,
and commend to his sure keeping
those who have died for their country in war;
those whom we knew and those whose memory we treasure;
and all who lived and died in the service of humanity.

They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

We will remember them.

The Commitment

We pledge ourselves anew to our work in support of the wartime generations and to all those in other conflicts since. We promise to do everything possible to help where there is need, and to ensure that they may enjoy the years that lie ahead in comfort and dignity and contentment.

The Dedication

“When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today”

“We will not break faith with you.”

(Kohima Epitaph)

The War Memorial is also a place to pray for peace.

St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Say the prayer of St Francis for peace:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Say these words from the Communion Rite of the Mass:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The statue of St Chad, our Patron

The mid-16th Century oak statue depicts St Chad in Bishop's vestments carrying a crozier, his pastoral staff. He is also holding a model of the original Cathedral of St Chad in Lichfield.

St Chad was a 7th Century Bishop who died in the year 627 on the 2nd March which we observe as a Solemnity in the Cathedral. Along with the Immaculate Conception, he is a Patron of the Archdiocese.

He was schooled in the strict Western Monastic tradition, and was a student of St Aidan at Lindisfarne along with his brother Cedd, who is also a saint. St Chad served as Abbot at a number of monasteries, including Lastingham, in North Yorkshire, before he was appointed Bishop of the Northumbrians. Later he became Bishop to the Mercians and was credited with bringing Christianity to this part of England.

His Shrine in Lichfield was a popular place of pilgrimage until it was destroyed during the Reformation of the 16th Century. Some of his relics are venerated in this Cathedral, and they are housed in the reliquary above the High Altar.

Pray for our Archdiocese; for our present Bishop, Archbishop Bernard Longley, and for our friends in faith at the Cathedral of St Chad in Lichfield.

Also, say the Prayer of St Chad.

God our Father, your holy Bishop Chad
watched over the flock entrusted to his care
by seeking the lost and stray, visiting the sick
and feeding your people with word and Sacrament.

Through his intercession may we come to praise You
In the Glory of Heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Interlude

We hope you have enjoyed your Pilgrimage thus far, and that it has been a time of renewal and inspiration. The journey continues, but we never travel alone, you are amongst friends because we are a Pilgrim Church and the Father of Mercy is always with us. Each and every day the Holy Spirit will strengthen and feed us through the Sacraments and the Divine Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist that we too may be faithful Pilgrims of Mercy.

‘The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city; his servants will worship him, they will see him face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And night will be abolished; they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord will be shining on them. They will reign for ever and ever.’ Rev 22:4

Say the following prayer from the Concluding Rites to end the Year of Mercy:

Show us your mercy, Lord,
and come to the aid of your people
who call upon you as their shepherd and guide;
restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The following blessing is taken from the Roman Missal

May the God of all consolation order your days
in his peace and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

Amen.

May he free you always from every distress
and confirm your hearts in his love.

Amen.

So that on this life's journey
you may be effective in good works,
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,
and may come happily to eternal life.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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For further information, pilgrimage materials or enquiries about the Catholic faith;
or to arrange a group visit to the cathedral please contact:

The Dean at St. Chad's Cathedral on 0121 230 6209 & 0121 230 6201

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www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

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In addition to the Cathedral, the following are Jubilee Churches and places
of Pilgrimage.

Jubilee Churches

- Birmingham: Erdington Abbey
St Mary's Harborne
- Caversham: Our Lady and St Anne
- Coventry: St Mary and St Benedict
- Harvington: St Mary's
- Leamington Spa: St Peter's
- Lichfield: Holy Cross
- Newcastle –under Lyme: Holy Trinity
- Oxford: Oxford Oratory (St. Aloysius)
- Rugby: St Marie's
- Stafford: St Austin's
- Solihull: St Augustine's
- Walsall: St Mary's, The Mount
- Wolverhampton: St Peter and St Paul's
- Worcester: St George's

Places of Pilgrimage

- The Birmingham Oratory, Hagley Road
- Littlemore, Oxford
- Maryvale Institute – The Shrine of the Sacred Heart
- St John the Baptist, Alton, Staffordshire, serving Alton Castle and Soli
- Aston Hall, Aston-by-Stone
- St Mary's Convent, Handsworth (Sisters of Mercy)
- St Bernard's Convent and "Coolock", Newcastle-under-Lyme (Sisters of Mercy)



Archdiocese of Birmingham