

WE CALL ON GOD'S GRACE AS WE MOVE FORWARD

Enriched by this Year of Mercy, let us ask God for the strength to continue in the way of mercy into the future.

- What grace do I most need at this time?
- I ask God, humbly and confidently, to bless me and to fill me with the strength I need as a disciple of Christ.
- I ask Jesus to walk with me.
- I invite the Holy Spirit to guide my steps. (Pause)

L: We give thanks, Lord, for your continuing blessing on our journey.

All: We give you thanks, O Lord. Let your mercy wash over us.

CLOSING PRAYER

Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, we pray:

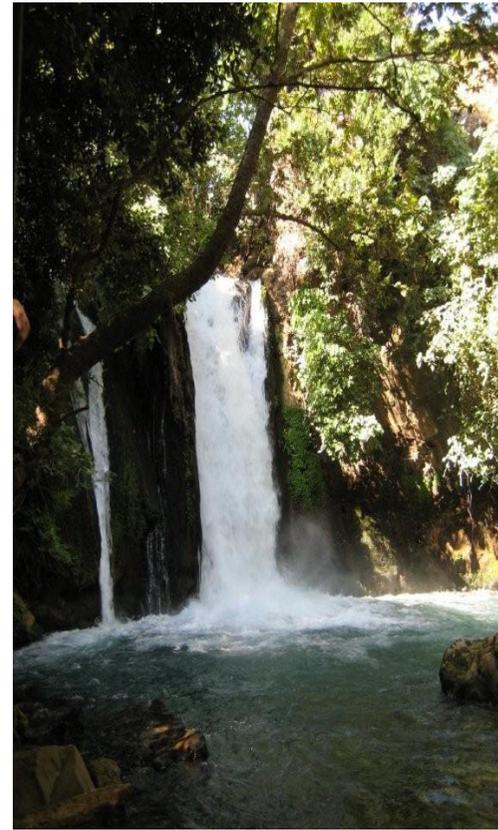
Lord God, continue to renew us by your mercy.

Let us be loved by Jesus.

Let us continue to live mercifully and to accompany others as Spirit-filled agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish. Amen.*

Close with a suitable song (such as *Let Your Mercy Wash Over Us* - Trevor Thomson) and a Sign of Peace.

*Based on Pope Francis' Easter message 2013.



Closing the Year of Mercy

A Prayerful Ending *Fresh Beginnings*

Sacred space: Candle, Cross, Bible,
and a symbol that depicts the
Year of Mercy in our community.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS

On 20 November 2016 the Jubilee Year of Mercy officially comes to a close. It has been a year in which the Church has been invited by Pope Francis into a focused encounter with the mercy of God.

Although the Year of Mercy comes to an end, God's mercy never ends. The merciful face of the Father continues to turn towards us, inviting an ever new encounter with the risen Jesus in the freedom of the Spirit.

With this in mind, let us gather in prayer,
to acknowledge the year past,
and to bless our steps forward.

WE GATHER

Place yourself in a comfortable position.
Relax and breathe deeply.
Let us be present to the mystery of divine
love which surrounds and holds us. (pause)

- *We gather to remember the Year of Mercy.*
- *We gather to give thanks.*
- *We gather to call on God's grace as we move into the future.*

WE REMEMBER OUR JOURNEY

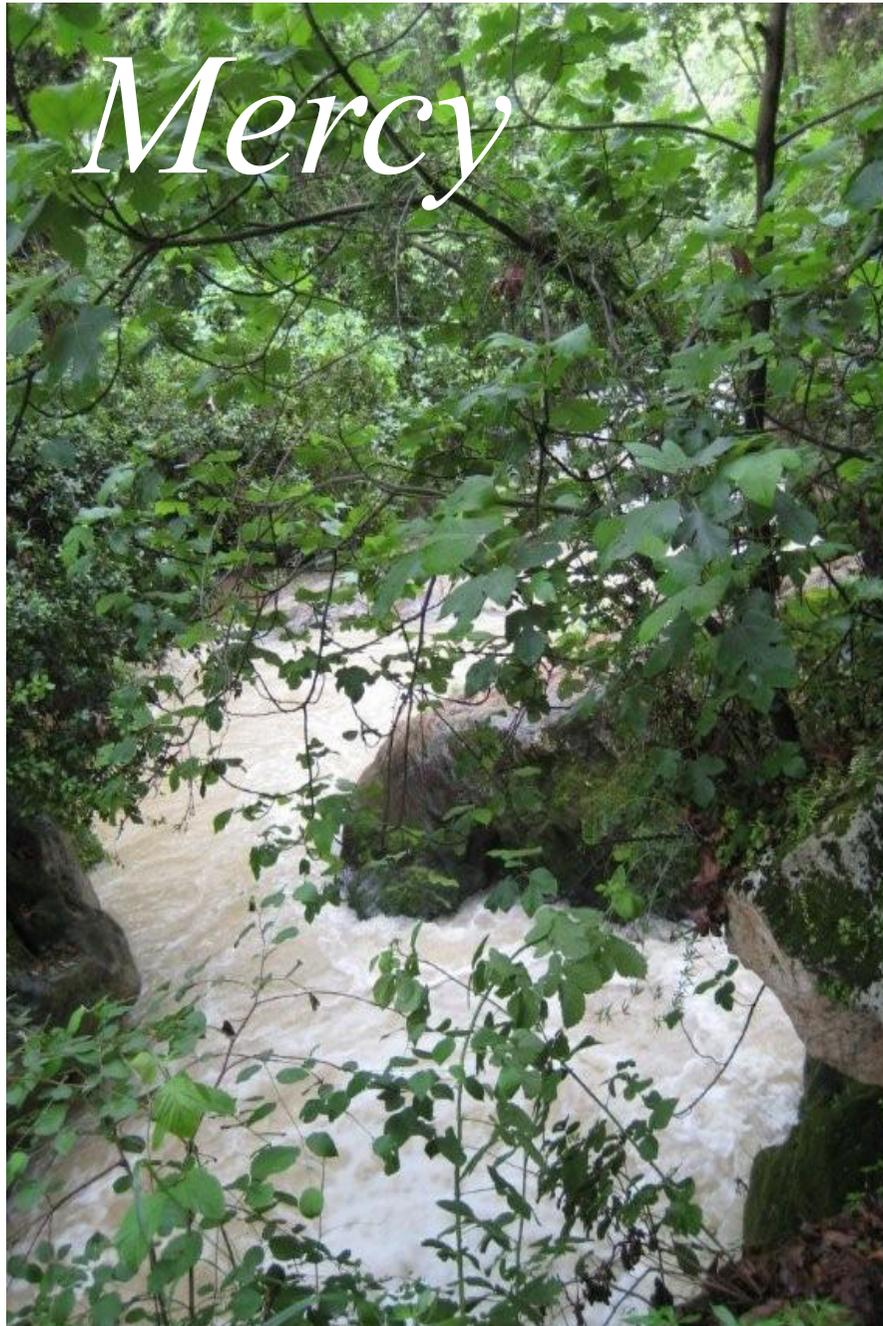
We remember our journey through the Year
of Mercy.

- Cast your thoughts back to the start of the year, its unfolding, its middle, its ending... What stands out for you? What catches your attention?
- Bring to mind the person of Pope Francis and his inspiration during this year.
- What key messages, insights, touched me during the Year of Mercy?
- What were the highs and low points of our journey?
- How am I different because of these experiences?
- What important learnings and resolutions do I take with me?
- [What else do I remember of this Year?]

(Pause)

L: We give you thanks, Lord, for all the ways you have walked with us this past year.

All: We give you thanks, O Lord. Let your mercy wash over us.



WE GIVE THANKS

We give thanks

- for the gift of Jesus, who shows us the face of God's mercy;
- for those who enflesh Christ's presence in our lives, especially those in our families and friendship circles, in our neighbourhoods and workplaces.
- We thank God for the gift of Pope Francis and the ways he has encouraged and challenged us in faith.
- We give thanks for the merciful love of those who have gone before us in faith.
- [Continue: 'We give thanks for ...']

(pause)

L: Lord, for all these gifts, we give thanks for your merciful presence in our lives.

All: We give you thanks, O Lord. Let your mercy wash over us.

*“I will pour water
on thirsty land, and
streams on the dry
ground.”*

Isaiah 44:3