

# Prayers for a Pilgrim Journey

In this Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis invites you to journey to a Holy Door, “that Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.”



This leaflet is offered as a prayer guide to accompany you as you make your pilgrimage to one of the Holy Doors of our diocese, following either the official routes below or a pilgrimage route of your own making.

## OFFICIAL JUBILEE DOORS & PILGRIMAGE ROUTES FOR KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN DIOCESE

Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow - beginning by icon of St Fiacc, in St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen (Open from December 13, 2015)

Church of St Brigid, Kildare Town - beginning at St Brigid's Well, Kildare (Open from January 31, 2016)

Church of St Fintan, Mountrath – beginning at St Fintan's, Clonenagh (Open from April 3, 2016)

Duisk Abbey, Graignamanagh – beginning at St Moling's Well, St Mullins (Open from September 11, 2016)

As you set out on pilgrimage...

*(Bless yourself with Holy Water as you) make the Sign of the Cross, a reminder of your baptism in which you were immersed into the loving mercy of God.*

## A Psalm for the Journey

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth and teach me;  
for you are God my saviour.

Be mindful of your mercy,  
O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth  
or my transgressions; According to  
your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path;  
He teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep his covenant and  
will. The Lord's friendship is for those  
who revere him;  
to them he reveals his covenant.

(Psalm 25)

## A Pause before the Journey

*While making your journey to the Door of Mercy, think and pray about where in your life you need to welcome God's steadfast love and mercy...?*

- *What are your intentions for this pilgrimage?*
- *Is there a longing in your heart you wish to bring to the Lord today?*

*As you walk, welcome the God of mercy who walks each step with you.*

## On arriving at the Door of Mercy



**Pope Francis reminds us that “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...In passing through the holy door, then, may we feel that we ourselves are part of this mystery of love. Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things.”**

## Crossing the threshold

**This is the Lord's gate to which God has welcomed me: I will enter through it and receive God's mercy and forgiveness.**

*Once more bless yourself with Holy Water as you enter this sacred place.*

## Prayer of thanksgiving before the Blessed Sacrament

*Having reached your destination, spend some quiet time in thanksgiving for the journey made and the grace of God that has accompanied you on your pilgrimage. During this time you might like to pray the Prayer for the Year of Mercy.*

## *Prayer for the Year of Mercy*

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 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.



As you prepare to leave

**Pope Francis writes: “it is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience...”**

**CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead



**SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct those lacking knowledge
- Correct sinners
- Comfort the Sorrowful
- Forgive all injuries willingly
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living & the dead

*Having welcomed God’s mercy into your life, reflect on how you might in turn share this mercy with others...*

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

**A Closing Prayer**

Loving and merciful Father,  
 I have welcomed your mercy once more into my life.  
 As I leave this sacred place today, give me the will and the grace to carry your mercy with me, sharing it with those I meet so that I may be merciful like the Father and that your love may continue to reach out to every human being. Amen.

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In order to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence, a pilgrimage to a Holy Door needs to be linked to the following actions:

The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist (before, during or after the pilgrimage); Making a profession of faith (i.e. reciting the Creed); Praying for the Holy Father and his intentions.

A Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained through the doing of an act of Corporal or Spiritual Mercy.