



# FEAST OF SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

JUNE 6  
2016 RESOURCES



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# INTRODUCTION

*A God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger,  
abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*

*EXODUS 34:6*

When Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, the future Pope Francis, read the title of Cardinal Walter Kasper's new book 'Mercy' at the most recent conclave he exclaimed; 'Ah mercy! This is the name of our God'. The title immediately resonated, as it described a God rich in mercy (*Eph 2:4*) and recognised the deep human need for people to experience it. No one is spared from difficulties, hardship, pain or suffering; and we share the desire for justice, compassion and love.

What does mercy look like? Perhaps it appears as a somewhat outdated word, even a bit soft or weak. Give me the strength of 'justice' instead! Or is it both? In scripture we see that the strength of God's mercy is experienced through the passionate cry for justice for anyone in pain or suffering. It is not a soft love but one that demands goodness and justice to be powerfully experienced through concern, compassion and genuine openness to others. Robert Barron writes: 'God is love. Mercy is what love looks like.'

We hear this message of mercy in parable after parable. Captured most simply yet profoundly in the story of the Good Samaritan, mercy is experienced when boundaries are crossed, when the stranger becomes known, and when the destructive unjust relationships of our world are brought back into balance. It is a story expressing the strength of mercy through courageous compassion and tenderness. It is a teaching story to help us understand something of what God's mercy looks like: it washes, cleans, heals and raises up. Mercy restores life...again and again.

Jesus' message of mercy in the parable is an encouraging one as it not only gives us a model of how to live as Christian disciples, but reminds us that mercy is offered to each one of us! It is an invitation to be open to God's mercy each day, a consolation we can then share with others (*2 Cor 1:3f*).

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is an invitation to open our hearts to the healing and restoring gift God offers. It is an invitation for our Marist communities to build a culture of mercy, taking up Pope Francis' challenge to make the mercy and tenderness of God visible through our ability to heal wounds and warm hearts. It is an invitation to wash, clean, heal and raise up. Life and balance is restored.

Our desire is to be a visible and permanent memory of the loving and merciful presence of God in the midst of people: living signs of the Father's tenderness.

*(Water from the Rock, Marist Spirituality, n. 137)*

Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for us.





# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**E**ach year Marists celebrate the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers and the person who inspires educators who seek to live the spirituality of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Marists do this in a variety of ways such as through prayer, attending a special Mass, learning more about Marcellin or by carrying out a service in his name.

Marcellin grew up in France. He was born in 1789, the year the French Revolution commenced, a year of turmoil. He grew up in a large family and consequently learnt to share life with his brothers and sisters. Marcellin enjoyed his family life on the farm, tending the sheep and developing his entrepreneurial skills through selling some of these sheep. Marcellin's father was active in the politics of the Revolution, while his mother, a very religious woman, spent most of her time caring for the family. Marcellin's early days, therefore, were influenced by parents who contributed to his growth in very different ways.

A chance visit to the family farm by a priest sowed in Marcellin's mind and heart the desire to become a priest. It was then that his lack of basic education came against him and he had to work hard to overcome this handicap. In the seminary he met a group of young men inspired with a vision of founding a Society of Mary, priests, sisters and lay

people, working to rebuild the Church, a humble and serving Church, in the spirit of Mary.

Once Marcellin was ordained, the local Bishop appointed him as curate to a small village named La Valla. It was during this time that Marcellin finally believed God was calling him to found a community of Brothers who would help educate young people. In France, after the Revolution, there was a great need for competent teachers and the Church was keenly aware of the equally important need to educate these young people in the Catholic faith.

Marcellin's commitment to his priestly duties included taking every opportunity to teach young people their catechism. He soon got to know the local families, visiting them on foot as often as he could. These people could see Marcellin's love of God and his special devotion to Mary. His enthusiasm was contagious, inspiring others to also become teachers of the faith.

Today's Marist schools are built on this early tradition, one which continues to enhance school communities. At this time each year we focus on the legacy of St Marcellin, providing us with the opportunity to reflect on these origins and to reinterpret them for our contemporary world. St Marcellin Champagnat, guide us.



• SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

• God of Light and Wisdom,  
• thank you for giving me  
• a mind that can know  
• and a heart that can love.

• Saint Marcellin found study a struggle,  
• but he understood that learning would  
• help him to make Jesus known and loved.  
• This was Saint Marcellin's mission.

• Help me to keep learning every day of my life –  
• no matter what the subject may be.  
• Let me be convinced that all knowledge leads to  
• you and let me know how to find you and love  
• you in all the things you have made.

• Encourage me when the studies are difficult  
• and when I, like Saint Marcellin,  
• am tempted to give up.  
• Enlighten me when my brain is slow  
• and help me to grasp the truth held out to me.

• Grant me the same grace that Saint Marcellin  
• was given to put my knowledge to use  
• in building a world of love and mercy,  
• so that I can come to Jesus through Mary,  
• creating a world that God wants,  
• a world of peace, mercy and love.

• May I follow Saint Marcellin's vision and  
• example as we learn to follow Jesus  
• in the way of his mother Mary.

# STUDENT PRAYER #1



## • THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN: A • STORY OF A NEIGHBOUR'S MERCY

• But a Samaritan while travelling came near  
• him; and when he saw him, he was moved  
• with pity. He went to him and bandaged his  
• wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.  
• Then he put him on his own animal, brought  
• him to an inn, and took care of him. The next  
• day he took out two denarii, gave them to the  
• innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and  
• when I come back, I will repay you whatever  
• more you spend." (*LUKE 10: 33-35*)

## • REFLECTION

• In this parable Jesus uses the image of a  
• foreigner to show what mercy truly means.  
• The neighbours we are asked to love, and  
• show mercy to, include those who are not of  
• our own faith or nationality, and who may  
• even be our enemies. When have you shown  
• mercy to your neighbour recently?  
• (*pause for a moment's personal reflection*)

## • PRAYER

• Merciful God, we live in a world where there  
• are so many hurting people that, at times,  
• it can become overwhelming and we find  
• ourselves stepping back, and almost hoping  
• that the problem will go away. And yet Jesus  
• demonstrated a life that overflowed with  
• deep compassion and tender mercy towards  
• all those that were wounded and abused,  
• troubled or hurt. Help us to stretch out a  
• willing arm of comfort, when we see other  
• people hurting or in pain, and extend a hand  
• of mercy to all those in need of your loving  
• embrace. Amen.

# STUDENT PRAYER #2



• THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON: A  
• STORY OF A PARENT'S LOVING MERCY

• I will get up and go to my father, and I will  
• say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against  
• heaven and before you; I am no longer  
• worthy to be called your son; treat me like  
• one of your hired hands.' So he set off and  
• went to his father. But while he was still far  
• off, his father saw him and was filled with  
• compassion; he ran and put his arms around  
• him and kissed him. (LUKE 15: 18-20)

• REFLECTION

• In this parable, Jesus uses the image of a  
• parent's love to illustrate God's mercy. The  
• human bond between a parent and child is  
• one that reaches deep into the heart. It's a  
• love that is often beyond words. In this story,  
• the son that was 'lost' has begun to turn  
• his life around. From his place of deepest  
• darkness and shame, he returns to the  
• embrace of his father's love. When have you  
• received mercy that you didn't deserve?  
• *(pause for a moment's personal reflection)*

• PRAYER

• Embrace us with your Spirit, so that this  
• Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from  
• the Lord, a year when we may bring renewed  
• good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to  
• captives and the oppressed, and restore  
• sight to the blind. Amen.

• *Acknowledgement: Adapted from Catholic*  
• *Archdiocese of Melbourne "The Parables of Mercy".*

# STUDENT PRAYER #3

# STAFF PRAYER #1

When Pope Francis was a parish priest in Argentina, he met a mother with young children who had been abandoned by her husband. She had no steady income. When odd jobs were scarce, she would prostitute herself in order to feed her children and provide for her family. During that time she would visit the local parish, which tried to help her by offering food and material goods.

One day during the Christmas season, the mother visited and requested to see the parish priest, Father Jorge Bergoglio. He thought she was going to thank him for the package of food the parish had sent to her.

“Did you receive it?” Fr. Bergoglio had asked her. “Yes, yes, thank you for that, too,” the mother explained. “But I came here today to thank you because you never stopped calling me Señora.”

The Holy Father recalled this touching memory in a chapter of his book *The Name of God is Mercy*.

This experience with the young mother profoundly touched Pope Francis, who said it taught him the importance of treating every human person with dignity and mercy, no matter their situation in life. “Experiences like this teach you

how important it is to welcome people delicately and not wound their dignity,” Pope Francis stated in the book. “For her, the fact that the parish priest continued to call her Señora, even though he probably knew how she led her life during the months when she could not work, was as important – or perhaps even more important – than the concrete help that we gave her.”

*Spend some moments in quiet contemplation.*

Let us pray.

God our Father, you lead by example, showing mercy and compassion to all people.

May we be guided by your Spirit, recognising the dignity and humanness of those in our lives; our colleagues, our students and our loved ones.

We pray that the spirit of mercy be ever present in our minds, our hearts, our words and our actions.

Mary our Good Mother ...

*Pray for us*

St Marcellin Champagnat ...

*Pray for us*

St Mary of the Cross...

*Pray for us*

And let us always remember to ...

*Pray for one another.*



# STAFF PRAYER #2

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**LEADER:**

Let us pause and remember that we are in the presence of a God who loves us. *(pause)* Let us pray.

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

**ALL:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

**READER 1:**

Marcellin was a man of deep faith. He never ceased to seek the will of God through prayer and dialogue with the religious authorities and with his brothers. His deep humility, and his acute awareness of the presence of God, helped him to live through many severe trials with great inner peace. *(pause)* Let us pray.

**ALL:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

**READER 2:**

Marcellin often prayed Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain", convinced that this congregation of brothers was the work of God and Mary. *(pause)* Let us pray.

**ALL:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

**READER 3:**

His motto was, "All to Jesus through Mary, and all to Mary for Jesus".  
*(pause)* Let us pray.

**ALL:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

**READER 4:**

Marcellin taught his disciples to love and respect children, and to give special attention to the poor, the most ungrateful and the most neglected. *(pause)* Let us pray.

**ALL:** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

**LEADER:**

Let us pause and call to mind those in our school community in need of God's love and mercy. *(pause)* Together let us pray with Mary, Our Good Mother,

**ALL:** Hail Mary ...

**LEADER:**

Mary our Good Mother ...  
*Pray for us*  
St Marcellin Champagnat ...  
*Pray for us*  
St Mary of the Cross...  
*Pray for us*  
And let us always remember to ...  
*Pray for one another*

# MASS / LITURGY

## A TIME FOR MERCY

Some thoughts on Marcellin Champagnat in the context of the readings and the theme of *Mercy – This is the Name of Our God*.

## INTRODUCTION

We gather today as a Marist community to celebrate the feast of St Marcellin Champagnat. In particular, we remember the way he embraced mercy through his actions of compassion and a genuine openness to others. Marcellin, through his daring imagination, gave birth to a vision where all young people could encounter and experience the love of our Merciful God. His work encouraged and challenged the methods of education with a goal of transforming the hearts and minds of all. Marcellin was a man who continues to invite us to look beyond, with strong and gentle hearts, recognising that we all have a place.

The Spirit of Marcellin Champagnat continues to be an active presence in our community and influences the way we live our daily lives. We imitate his approach of nurturing, showing empathy and gathering all those who are affected by the injustices of this world, as we embody a spirit of family to all those we serve. In this *Year of Mercy*, let us model the maternal face of the Church, to act as Marial people, so that we too, like Marcellin, become bearers of joy, justice and love.

During our Mass, let us pray that by Jesus' words, actions and life, we are able to reveal the mercy of God to all those we encounter.

.....

GATHERING SONG/  
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Local Choice

PENITENTIAL RITE

PRESIDER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and  
the love of God, and the communion of the  
Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And with your Spirit.

PRESIDER: We come together as a family who  
yearn to be transformed by God's Word,  
encouraging us to be people of courageous  
compassion and tenderness.

Let us turn to Christ with confidence and  
ask for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you love us with patience and  
kindness.

Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PRESIDER: Lord Jesus, you invite us to be ministers  
of mercy and care.  
Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

PRESIDER: Lord Jesus, you give us gifts to walk with  
those who are oppressed or in pain.  
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PRESIDER: Grant us, Lord our God, that we may  
honour you with all our mind, and love  
everyone in truth of heart. Fill us with  
your Spirit as we journey as Marial people  
through this year of Mercy. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

OR



THIS IS THE NAME OF OUR GOD

-POPE FRANCIS

## PENITENTIAL RITE

Holy Father, you have revealed the commandment of the new law through your Only Begotten Son, and shown us how to put it into practice by the inspiring example of Saint Marcellin; grant us, we pray, the grace to persevere in loving all our sisters and brothers as he taught, and to lead our world to the knowledge of the truth of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Optional to use one or both readings plus the Gospel)

### FIRST READING

A reading from THE BOOK OF SIRACH (24:28-31)

I, wisdom, poured forth rivers.  
I, like a rivulet from her stream, channelling the waters into paradise, said to myself, "I will water my plants, my flower bed I will drench;"  
and suddenly this rivulet of mine became a river,  
and this stream of mine, a sea.  
Thus do I send my teachings forth shining like the dawn, to become known from afar.  
I shall penetrate the lower parts of the earth,  
and I shall look upon all who sleep,  
and enlighten those who hope in God.  
Thus do I pour out instruction like prophecy  
and bestow it on generations to come,  
and I shall continue in their descendants forever.  
See, I have worked not for myself alone, but for all who seek instruction.

The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM/RESPONSE TO THE FIRST READING

Local choice

### SECOND READING

A reading from ST PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (3:23-28)

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**





• Gospel Acclamation (*MATTHEW 5:3*)

• **ALL:** Alleluia, alleluia!

• How blessed are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.  
• Alleluia!

• **GOSPEL** • A reading from THE GOOD NEWS OF MATTHEW (18:1-5)

• Just then the disciples came up to Jesus with the question, “Who  
• is of greatest importance in the kingdom of God?” He called a little  
• child over and stood him in their midst and said: “I assure you,  
• unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter  
• the kingdom of God. Whoever makes himself lowly, becoming like  
• this child, is of greatest importance in that heavenly reign. Whoever  
• welcomes one such child for my sake welcomes me.

• The Gospel of the Lord.

• **ALL:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

• **HOMILY**

• **PRAYERS OF THE  
MARIST COMMUNITY**

• **PRESIDER:**

• Filled with the joy of this celebration, let us turn to Christ with  
• confidence and ask for his mercy.



• *The intercessory response ‘Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer’ is based on  
• the Psalm/Response to the First Reading ‘To Follow You’ by Chris de Silva and  
• Lovina Francis Pammitt.*

• **FOR THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH**

• Saint Marcellin Champagnat was a strong and loyal leader of the  
• Church. For Pope Francis and our Bishop N., for leaders of parishes  
• and those who serve in them.

• **ALL:** Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.

• **FOR MARIST MISSION**

• Inspired by Marcellin Champagnat, let us fully reflect the love,  
• mercy and compassion of Christ, living united in common mission.

• **ALL:** Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.



## FOR THE POOR AND THOSE ON THE PERIPHERY

Marcellin Champagnat showed particular preference by being with those who were excluded from the mainstream of society. Let us have the courage to address the injustices that arise among us, so that God's mercy will be revealed to all.

ALL: Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.

## FOR OUR CALL TO HOLINESS

Saint Marcellin believed in building a better world, where he made his mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved. May we always be open in the world of learning to find the joy of God's merciful love in all of humanity and creation.

ALL: Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.

## FOR TRUST IN MARY'S CARE

Like Marcellin, we look to Mary as a true witness of faith, where she entered fully into the mission of Christ her son. Let us be people who imitate her tenderness and strength in all those we encounter.

ALL: Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.

## FOR MARISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

We pray for all Marists and their communities throughout the world. May they be visible signs of compassion and be places where the presence of our loving and merciful God is encountered.

ALL: Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.

## FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

We ask Marcellin to join us in praying for all those who have gone before us, especially those who have died recently. May the light of Christ's healing grace ease the pain and suffering of all.

ALL: Hear our prayer, Lord hear our prayer.

PRESIDER:

Merciful God, protector and source of all blessings, you delight in the happiness of your people. Hear the prayers we offer for all your people and for the world. Fulfil our needs and guide our actions as we continue to engage in your mission.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.



## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Preface of Saint Marcellin Champagnat
- 
- Father,
- all powerful and ever living God
- we do well always and everywhere
- to give you thanks,
- and to praise you for your gifts
- as we contemplate your saints in glory.
- Like a loving parent,
- you always watch over us, your people.
- 
- You gave us Mary as our Good Mother,
- first among the believers,
- a just and simple woman.
- You gave us Marcellin Champagnat,
- a man who truly reflected your loving faithfulness
- in his commitment to serving you in your people.
- His life was a living witness of the ideal
- that he presented to his first followers:
- to become a Brother means to strive to become holy.
- 
- Through Christ, the angels of heaven
- offer their prayer of adoration as they rejoice in your
- presence forever.

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

- May our offering be pleasing to you, O Lord; and grant
- that, filled with the spirit of your love, we may persevere
- in the teaching of the Apostles, in communion, in the
- breaking of bread and in prayer. Through Christ our Lord.
- 
- **ALL: Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN AND SONG OF THANKSGIVING

- Local choice
- 
- 

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- Nourished with the Body and Blood of your Son, we pray, O
- Lord, that we who celebrate the great work that you have
- accomplished in your Church through Saint Marcellin,
- may be strengthened by the power of this Sacrament and
- inspired to undertake great works. Through Christ our
- Lord.
- 
- **ALL: Amen.**



FINAL BLESSING

PRESIDER: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May the God of mercy and forgiveness show you love.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: May Jesus Christ our brother guide your actions and thoughts.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: May the Holy Spirit guide you now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: And may Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDER: All Loving God,  
By the example of Jesus, we are inspired to live our lives with mercy and compassion.  
May we be people who make a difference in the lives of many, even though we may never know them.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING FORTH SONG/  
RECESSIONAL HYMN

Local choice



# MEDITATION: MERCY



*(To be read reflectively with clear pauses)*

Sit comfortably, with your feet on the floor and your hands in your lap. Close your eyes, slow your breathing and “listen with the ears of your heart.”

How will I live mercifully as I move through my days? *(pause)*

What will I say and do that will express to those around me the mercy Pope Francis is talking about? *(pause)*

In a routine day I do simple actions, ordinary things, and I walk a fairly unexciting landscape, so I will not see my mercy in grand gestures or statements.

It is my mercy that will give you my seat on the train, acting as if I am about to get up anyway, rather than making you feel that I am doing you a favour.

My mercy is not heard in my audible sigh - you know the one - the silent aggravation toward the person at the checkout whose card doesn't swipe or whose children are having a tantrum. But it offers some knowing empathy that she is not ruining my day.

Sometimes my mercy chooses not to complain about bad service because I can see the look of “It's been a really hard day” on the server's face.

My mercy shows itself if, when you offend me, I don't make it difficult for

you to apologise or ask my forgiveness. Really, my mercy doesn't wait to forgive so that you feel freer to ask for it.

No matter where I am, my mercy creates an atmosphere in which you feel safe to admit your mistake or ask a question. But if my mercy must correct you, it hurts me to do it and I do so gently and with great care.

My mercy always gives you the benefit of the doubt.

My mercy is charitable, even though I know that at some point someone will take advantage of it.

My mercy has an open-door policy that welcomes you, often aware that I may be distracted by you.

My mercy lets go of control, when doing so allows you to grow and learn.

My mercy helps you succeed.

My mercy clears the way for you to walk beside me, no matter how hesitant your steps or injured your feelings.

My mercy affects the lives of others, both long-term and only for a moment.  
*(Pause for a more lengthy reflection.)*

Open your eyes.

“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”  
*(MATTHEW 5:7)*

# MEDITATION: A MARIAL PRAYER OF CONSCIOUSNESS

*(To be read gently with clear pauses)*

Sit comfortably, with your feet on the floor and your hands in your lap. Close your eyes, slow your breathing.

Imagine you are at the end of a long tiring day. The jobs are done, the meals are finished and dishes are washed. The children are in bed and the television is off for the night.

You sit on the edge of your bed and look back at a day passed with nothing unusual other than the usual effort that your days always bring; you listen to the welcomed silence.

As you sit, your shoulders relax, your body slumps into the softness of your mattress and your thoughts quiet themselves.

Think back upon the events of your day.  
*(pause)*

- Now picture Mary at the foot of the cross
- hearing, from its height, the words of her
- son saying to her, “Behold your son,” and
- “Father, forgive them, they know not what
- they do.”
- 
- This is the mercy of God and Mary knows
- the price of this mercy: the death of her
- own son.
- 
- Mary, at this moment, is given the flesh of
- mercy. She is mercy incarnate.
- 
- Let us ask Jesus, through his mother
- Mary, to give us eyes and ears of mercy.
- 
- Now look back at the events of your day
- through your eyes and ears of mercy.
- *(pause)*
- 
- How is it a different experience?
- *(Pause for a more lengthy reflection.)*
- 
- Open your eyes.
- 
-

# REVIEW OF THE DAY

# MERCY

## *An Ignatian Reconciliation Examen*

*A review of the day is a prayerful reflection on recent events in our life to find where God has been present to us, and to discern where God is leading us.*

### PSALM 136: 1-3

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.

### I GIVE THANKS

After reading the scripture text, spend a few minutes and become aware of God's presence. As a daughter or son of God, hear his words: "You are my beloved."

Sift through the day, and with gratitude, reflect on times I have received or given forgiveness.

### I ASK FOR HELP

I ask the Spirit to intercede for me, particularly in those areas with which I'm most struggling right now.

### I REVIEW

Feeling God's love and mercy, move through the day, finding times where ...

1. I recall if I have rejected or withheld love.
2. I sift my thoughts, words and actions.
3. I examine the general direction of my life – my true self.
4. I explore one place I belong to, discerning the good from the unjust.
5. I bring to God any sin or sinful pattern that has real and harmful consequences in my life.

### I RESPOND

I enter the mystery of God's reconciling and forgiving love. I humbly express my sorrow for what was revealed in my review and ask for forgiveness.

### I RESOLVE

I resolve to take one or more of the following paths to reconciliation:

1. To adjust my lifestyle or work, see a counsellor or spiritual director or deepen my personal, family and church relationships, so that the Lord may forgive and reconcile me through them.
2. To continue to pray to Jesus about those areas where I need forgiveness and to call on his merciful love.
3. To take any needed reconciling action for myself or others I have hurt.
4. To receive the sacrament of reconciliation, now and monthly if possible.
5. To make, as an envoy of Christ, one small act of reconciliation next month.

*Adapted and edited from Australian Catholics Magazine Edition 1: Mercy in Spirituality. Page 7.*



—POPE FRANCIS

# SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE

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## PROVERBS 3:27

Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it.

## PROVERBS 11:17

A merciful person helps himself, but a cruel person hurts himself.

## PROVERBS 14:21

If you want to be happy, be kind to those in need; it is a sin to despise anyone!

## MICAH 6:6-8

To walk humbly with your God.

## JOHN 13:1-20

For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

## LUKE 10:25-37

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.

## LUKE 15:11-32

His father, filled with compassion.

## MATTHEW 5:1-11

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

## MATTHEW 7:3-5

“Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but fail to perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye.”

## MATTHEW 9:9-13

I desire mercy not sacrifice.

## MATTHEW 25:31-46

For I was hungry and you gave me food.

## ROMANS 12:8

[When you do] acts of mercy, show mercy with cheerfulness.

## EPHESIANS 4:2

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.

## EPHESIANS 4:31-32

Don’t get bitter or angry or use harsh words that hurt each other. Don’t yell at one another or curse or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.



THIS IS THE NAME OF OUR GOD

—POPE FRANCIS



# SUGGESTED HYMNS/SONGS

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- [Compassion \(Change the World\) - Rough Draft](#)
- 
- [Forgiveness - Matt West](#)
- 
- [Forgiveness - Toby Mac](#)
- 
- [God of Justice - Tim Hughes](#)
- 
- [God of Mercy and Compassion](#)
- 
- [Marist Music - Jubilee Hymn](#)
- 
- [Mercy and Compassion - Noel Miranda](#)
- 
- [Official Hymn of the Jubilee of Mercy](#)
- 
- [Tell Out My Soul - Timothy Dudley-Smith](#)
- 
- [The Endless Mercy of God - Matt Boswell](#)
- 
- [Willow Publishing](#)
- 
- [Your Mercy Is Great - John Basil Dungo](#)
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