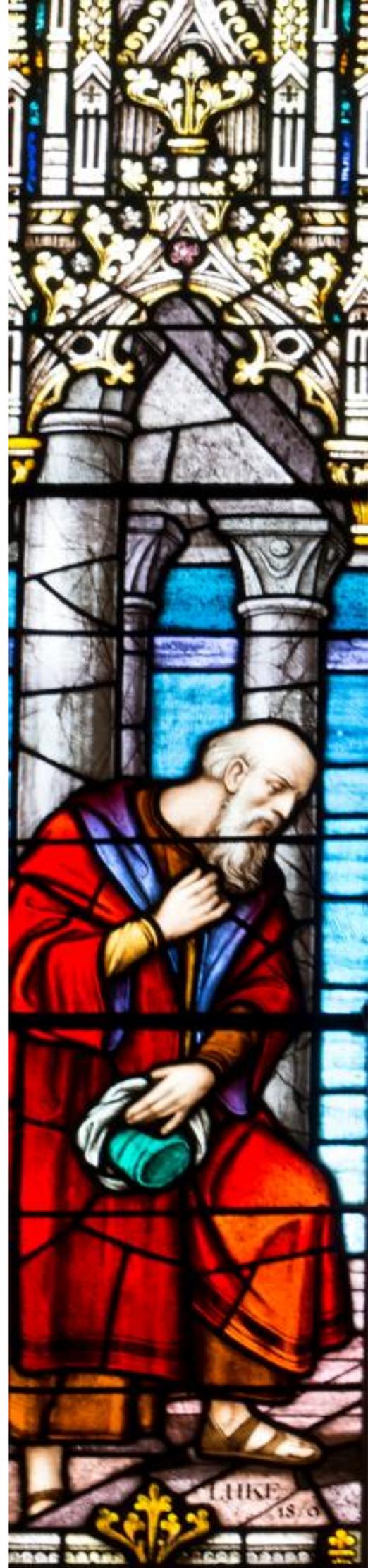


PARABLES OF MERCY

Luke 18 : 9 - 14

Jesus have mercy on me a sinner



Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has initiated this Year of Mercy as an opportunity for pilgrimage, reflection and commitment to action that will enable Mercy to be made concrete and practical in our own local communities.

Thank you for your willingness to enter into this time of prayer and reflection. May it be an experience of Mercy which will enable you to further respond with Mercy and compassion in your local community.

Lectio / Visio Divina

Lectio Divina is a Latin term meaning “Reading with God”.

Visio Davina is a Latin term meaning “seeing or looking with God”.

We hope that the parable windows will be a Lectio / Visio Divina for the community of pilgrims in the Year of Mercy so that we may also “See with God”.

The practice of sacred reading has been practiced in the church for centuries, and has its origin in the monastic life as a pathway for prayer with scripture. It leads us gently into a deeper relationship with Christ as we open ourselves to him. It is the ultimate DIY spiritual project.

Brendan Lodge Photography

Photographs by



There are four steps in the traditional practice of Lectio Divina.
But they do not need to be followed in this particular sequence.

1. Lectio Visio (reading-looking)

Look at the window slowly,
read the scripture ...become aware of a particular
word - phrase - colour - object or character.
(There is a page for your jottings inside the back cover.)

2. Meditatio (reflection)

Let the significant word / object / colour / character fill your
mind without straining to analyse them.
You are in God's presence,
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding.

3. Oratio (prayer)

Allow your heart to speak to God,
in words or emotions inspired by the parable
or the thoughts that have come to you while reflecting.

4. Contemplatio (rest)

Let go of ideas and words and allow yourself to rest in the
presence of God in simple wordless contemplation.

(Adapted from the
Lectio Divina pamphlet - NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 2011)



God, have mercy on me a sinner

One prayed ... I thank God I'm not a sinner.

The other beat his breast

“God, be merciful to me a sinner”

The humble will be exalted

1. Look and be open to the parable window
Look for a particular colour, character, object,
concept or word that may seem significant...
2. Let that which is significant fill your mind without
analysing, you are in God's presence... let the
Holy Spirit lead your understanding ...
3. Allow your heart to speak to God as you are
inspired by the parable...
4. How am I called to respond? Allow yourself to
rest in the presence of God...

At each of the parable windows,
there are three basic questions ...

- What do I notice
as I look and ponder the parable window?
Why does it move me?
- Where do I see love, or mercy or faithfulness,
compassion or forgiveness in this parable?
- How am I called to respond in my life?

A space for journaling:

(Please jot down your thoughts and insights for further reflection)

You may like to enter the parable window through your imagination, as a character or an object ... actually allowing yourself to experience the Mercy and Love of God.

God have mercy on me a Sinner

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else.

“Two people went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, “I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust and adulterous, like the rest of humanity – and particularly like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay a tenth on all I get. “

The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner” This one, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For anyone who exults themselves will be humbled, but the one who is humble will be exalted.’

1 Samuel 2 : 4

Bring your haughty words to an end, let no boasts fall from your lips, for the Lord is a God who knows all. It is God who weighs our deeds.



This parable calls for the identification of pride in my life ...

Lord Jesus have mercy on me, a sinner ...