



The initiative **'24 Hours for the Lord'** was launched in Lent 2014 by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation. Dioceses throughout the world were invited to respond in their own way to this call for a day of prayer and reconciliation with an emphasis on the availability during this time of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In Dublin, *'Walking the Road of Reconciliation'* and *'The Light Is On For You'*, two programmes on reconciliation were offered in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Pope Francis has asked that every diocese participate in **'24 Hours for the Lord'** 2016 as part of the Jubilee of Mercy on the weekend of **4/5 March**. Sunday **6 March** is the 4th Sunday of Lent and also Mother's Day and the Gospel is the story of the Prodigal. Many parishes celebrate the Novena of Grace (**4 -12 March**) which could have mercy as the focus. Lent 2016 will be such a graced and inclusive time as people work together to create 'an oasis of mercy'.

Suggested model for this initiative:

Friday Evening - Reconciliation Service and Adoration.

Saturday - Adoration with availability of Confessions and Reconciliation Service before Vigil Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent at which the 24 Hours is concluded.

This resource pack offers a variety of suggestions for this Jubilee event:

- Reconciliation Service (2)
- Reflection and Adoration Service (2)
- 'Oasis of Mercy' - Prayer Service and Ideas
- Jubilee Logo – Explanation and Suggestions for Prayer - Bookmark
- Works of Mercy – Novena of Grace and Prayer Service
- Sample Cards for use during Confession – Penance and Prayer
- Dialogue of 'Elder Brother Speaks'
- Programme and Prayer – Ambassadors of Mercy Evening

All resources (including templates for the prayer cards) will be on the website of the Diocesan Liturgy Resource Centre - www.litmus.dublindiocese.ie
(Contact litsec@dublindiocese.ie or 01 808 7554)

Misericordiae Vultus – The Face of Mercy (17) – Pope Francis

The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father! We can repeat the words of the prophet Micah and make them our own: You, O Lord, are a God who takes away iniquity and pardons sin, who does not hold your anger forever, but are pleased to show mercy. You, Lord, will return to us and have pity on your people. You will trample down our sins and toss them into the depths of the sea (cf. 7:18-19).

The pages of the prophet Isaiah can also be meditated upon concretely during this season of prayer, fasting, and works of charity: “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, here I am. If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not” (58:6-11).

The initiative of “*24 Hours for the Lord*,” to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.

