

'24 Hours for the Lord'
Ambassadors of Mercy – Ash Wednesday, 10 February 2016
– The Helix Theatre

Welcome	Monsignor Paul Callan
Prayer Moment One	Fr. Damian McNeice/Ms. Helen Norton
Mercy In The Old Testament	Dr. Jessie Rogers
Prayer Moment Two	Fr. Damian McNeice/Ms. Helen Norton
Parables of Mercy	Dr. Kieran O'Mahony O.S.A.
The Elder Brother Speaks	Ms. Helen Norton /Mr. Darren Maher
Prayer Moment Three	Fr. Damian McNeice/Ms. Helen Norton
Resource Pack	Fr. Pat O'Donoghue
Prayer Moment Four	Fr. Damian McNeice/Ms. Helen Norton
Address	Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Commissioning of Ambassadors of Mercy

Jubilee Anthem

Musicians

**Patrice O'Connor – Soprano, Sharon Lyons – Soprano/Violin,
Pat O'Donoghue – Keyboard**



The Prodigal – Sieger Köder

Prayer Moment 1

Reading **Luke 6:36-38**

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Song **Lord, show us your mercy (Jeanne Cotter)**

All sing: Lord, show us your mercy and love

Reflection **Cardinal Christoph Schönborn**

'It should be fairly obvious that becoming more aware of our own need of conversion and forgiveness makes it more difficult to take a condemning or judgemental stance. If we are all sinners, no one has a right to sit in judgement on another. All need God's mercy, and no one really has a superior position...The more we recognise who we are before God, the more we will become a forgiving community that truly welcomes sinners to reconciliation.'

Song **God of Second Chances (David Haas)**

All sing: Come now, O God, of second chances; open our lives to heal.
Remove our hate, and melt our rage. Save us from ourselves.
Come now, O God, release our demons; open our eyes to see
the shame within, our guilt and pain. Mend us; make us whole.

Thought **Hasdai Ibn Shaprut – d. 970 in Cordoba, Spain**

'If one is cruel to oneself, how can we expect that person to be compassionate with others'

Song ctd. Come now, O God, of second chances; may we forgive ourselves,
may we become your living sign: children of God's love.

Thought **Pope Francis – Laudato Si, 91.**

'A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.'

Song ctd. Come now, O God, shake our resentment; open our way to
choose the way of love over revenge. Show us a new way.
Come now, O God, and grant compassion; open our hearts to love.
May we let go of all our hurt. Help us to move on.

Prayer **The Serenity Prayer (Reinhold Niebuhr)**

All say: O God, give us the serenity to accept what cannot be changed,
The courage to change what can be changed,
and the wisdom to know the one from the other.

Prayer Moment 2

Reading **Ephesians 4:31-32**

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with malice, and be kind to one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Chant of Mercy **Kyrie (Seán Ó Riada)**

All sing: A Thiarna déan trócaire, A Chríost déan trócaire, A Thiarna déan trócaire,

Reflection **Ronald Rolheiser**

‘Unless we mourn properly our hurts, our losses, life’s unfairness, our shattered dreams...and all life that we once had but that has now passed us by, we will live either in an unhealthy fantasy or an ever-intensifying bitterness. Spiritually we see this in the older brother of the prodigal son. His bitterness and inability to dance points to what he is still clinging to life – life’s unfairness, his own hurt, and his unfulfilled fantasies. He is living in his father’s house but he is no longer receiving the spirit of that house.’

Chant of Mercy **Kyrie (William Byrd)**

Reflection **Pope Francis – Misericordiae Vultus, 12**

‘The Church’s first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident, in our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.’

Chant of Mercy **Kyrie (Taizé)**

All sing: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, Christe, Christe eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

Reflection **The Cloud of Unknowing – 14th c.**

God sees with merciful eyes
Not what you are
Or what you have been
But what you desire to be

Prayer **Psalm 41 (42)**

All say: Like the deer that yearns for running streams
so my soul is yearning for you my God.
My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life;
When can I enter and see the face of God?

The Elder Brother Speaks

Song	My Son Has Gone Away (Bob Dufford)
Dialogue	The Elder Brother Speaks
Instrumental	Lag Fyrir Ömmu (Ölafur Arnalds)

Prayer Moment 3

Reading **Luke 10.34**

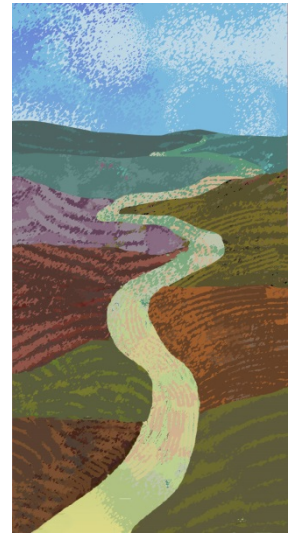
A Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

Song **Let Your Mercy Wash Over Us (Trevor Thomson)**

All sing: Let your mercy wash over us like the rainfall refreshing the earth
Let your mercy wash over us we your people are thirsting for you

Reflection **Saint Jerome – d.420**

Lord, show me your mercy
and make my heart glad.
I am like the man going to Jericho
wounded by robbers:
Good Samaritan, come help me.
I am like the sheep gone astray:
Good Shepherd, come and seek me
and bring me home safe.
Let me dwell in your house all my days
And praise you forever. Amen.



All sing: Let your mercy wash over us like the rainfall refreshing the earth
Let your mercy wash over us we your people are thirsting for you

Reflection **Catechism of the Catholic Church**

‘The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbour in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting, are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.’

All sing: Let your mercy wash over us like the rainfall refreshing the earth
Let your mercy wash over us we your people are thirsting for you

Reflection **Venerable Catherine McAuley**

‘Mercy not only bestows benefits, but receives us anew and pardons again and again.’

Prayer **Hail Holy Queen (Adapted)**

All say: Greetings to you, O Holy Queen. We salute you, Mother of mercy.
You are our life, our sweetness and our hope. As we struggle in our
humanity with the difficulties of life we turn to you with tearful eyes
and heavy hearts. Let your merciful eyes look kindly upon us and
point us with your look of love towards the fruit of your womb,
Jesus. O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

Prayer Moment 4

Reflection **Pope Francis – Misericordiae Vultus, 22**

‘From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends.’

Song **Amazing Grace (Spiritual)**

All sing: Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Reflection **Julian of Norwich (14th c.)**

‘For just as the blessed Trinity created everything from nothing, just so the same blessed Trinity will make well all things that are not well.’

All sing: Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

Reflection **Julian of Norwich (14th c.)**

‘For all our life is in three: in the first we have our Being, in the second we have our Increasing, and in the third we have our Fulfilling: the first is Nature, the second is Mercy, and the third is Grace.’

All sing: When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Prayer

All say: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without
end Amen.

Commissioning of Ambassadors of Mercy

Address **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin**

Reflection **The Merchant of Venice (William Shakespeare)**
The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore,
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,
That, in the course of justice, none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy.

Commissioning Ceremony Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

'Go out and proclaim the merciful embrace of the Father' (Pope Francis)

I commission you as an ambassador of mercy to **live** God's tender grace of mercy

'Go out to those who are burdened by pain and failure, who feel that their lives are empty, and proclaim the folly of a loving Father who wants to anoint them with the oil of hope, the oil of salvation' (Pope Francis)

I commission you as an ambassador of mercy to **reach out** to those who long to be lifted up with love

'Go out with the ointment that soothes wounds and heals hearts' (Pope F)

I commission you as an ambassador of mercy to carry the **gift of healing** into your community

***'Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven.'* (Pope Francis)**

Go in peace with the blessing of Saint Columba in your heart:

Be a bright flame before me
Be a guiding star above me
Be a smooth path below me
Be a kindly shepherd behind me
Today – Tonight – and Forever.

Final Song Misericordes Sicut Pater (Inwood/Costa)
All sing: Misericordes sicut pater, Misericordes sicut pater

