

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

**Celebrant:** My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord to bless this water, a reminder of our Baptism. With it, let us invoke the Lord's mercy and salvation that come through the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, creator and source of all life, bless + this water and grant that we your faithful, sprinkled from this purifying font, may receive the forgiveness of sins, deliverance from all evil, and the grace of your protection. In your mercy, O Lord, give us a spring of living water springing up to eternal life, so that, free from every danger, we may come to you with pure hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

*Hymn to be sung whilst the sprinkling of Holy Water takes place.*

**Celebrant:** O God, who sees how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

## Continue with the Eucharist

## Concluding Rites

*Inform people of special Diocesan Doors.*

## Dismissal

**Celebrant:** Be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful. Go in peace.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Liturgy for the **OPENING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY** in Parish Churches **Third Sunday of Advent** **12/13 December 2015**



## Opening Hymn

*Congregation to gather in a designated place.  
(The church or hall or elsewhere)*

Celebrant: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

## Greeting

Celebrant: The mercy of the Father,  
the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, with eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful face, the Holy Father, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, inaugurated an Extraordinary Jubilee, thus opening to us and to all men and women the door of God's mercy.

In communion with the universal Church, this celebration marks the solemn beginning of the Holy Year in our parish church; a prelude to the profound experience of grace and reconciliation that awaits us this year.

We shall joyfully listen to the Gospel of mercy that Christ the Lord, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, continually proclaims throughout the world, inviting us to rejoice in his love: a love announced again and again to every creature on earth.

Let us pray

O God, author of true freedom, who desired to gather the whole human race into one people, unshackled from the chains of slavery; and who gives to us, your children, a time of mercy and forgiveness; grant that your Church, ever expanding in freedom and peace, may brilliantly shine out to all as a sacrament of salvation; and make known and active in the world the mystery of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 15:1-7

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbours and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Begin The Procession

*Procession Psalms 86, 25*

*The Litany of Saints - Sung or read with a response after each verse.*

## Entering through the Door

Celebrant: Open the doors of justice, we shall enter and give thanks to the Lord.

*As the Door Opens;*

Celebrant: This is the Lord's door; let us enter through it and receive mercy and forgiveness.

*On entering the body of church a suitable hymn to be sung.*