

## FIRST FRIDAY HALF HOUR ADORATION - FOR APRIL

### Understanding Mercy and Compassion

**Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 221 Lord, my God, my all**

**Exposition:** In a moment of silence we make an act of faith believing that Jesus, the Risen Lord is truly present on our altar. **[Pause for a minute's silence]**

**Act of Adoration:**

If our prayer life as disciples is to be patterned on that of Jesus, it is very important that we understand Jesus, as presented in the Gospels, as the face of God's mercy. Jesus challenges us to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares "Blessed are they that show mercy, for mercy shall be theirs" (Matthew 5:7). The same Jesus who spoke these words at Capernaum is on our altar and is saying these words to us now.

**O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving  
be every moment Thine**

**SILENCE: 3 minutes**

**Scripture Reading:** We read from Psalm 123 "To you have I lifted up my eyes..."

**SILENCE:3 minutes**

**REFLECTION: [to be read slowly and meaningfully]**

We lift up our eyes to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, dwelling with us night and day. In the light of faith we see the depth of his love and mercy in the Holy Eucharist, the gift of his Passion on the cross. We ask him to make us Christ-conscious by seeking to be merciful like the Father. By lifting up our eyes and our will to Jesus He transforms us in the fire of his divine love.

**SILENCE 2 minutes**

**Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 144 – God of mercy and compassion**

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 7:36-39;47-49

**REFLECTION: [to be read slowly and meaningfully]**

In the Gospels, we are presented with the central challenge of mercy and compassion in Jesus. "Misericordia" [mercy], is a Latin word meaning...to "give the heart to the wretched," to those in need, and to those who are suffering. That is what Jesus did: he opened his heart to the wretchedness of man. The Gospel has a wealth of episodes which present "misericordia" of Jesus, his love freely given for the suffering and the weak".

Pope Francis sums this up well, he says: "What a beautiful truth of faith this is for our lives: the mercy of God! God's love for us is so great, so deep; it is

an unfailing love, one which always takes us by the hand and supports us, lifts us up and leads us on.”

“God’s mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones. Let us be renewed by God’s mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish.” **Silence: 3 minutes**

**Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 263 Make me a channel of your peace.**

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

**RESPONSE: JESUS, FACE OF THE FATHER’S MERCY GIVE US YOUR PARDON AND PEACE.**

1. The Lord desires that all be saved through his life, Passion, and Death and Resurrection. May we all take advantage of his forgiveness and mercy by availing ourselves of the Sacrament of Penance. **Our R/**
2. Lord, you did not condemn the sinful woman but sent her away forgiven and in peace. Help us not to fear your justice but instead to come to you in humility to seek your mercy and healing love . **Our R/**
3. Lord, your Cross has redeemed us, your Death has given us new life, and your Resurrection raises us to glory with you. Help us to seek your healing love by seeking your continuous presence in our lives. **Our R/**
4. Lord, we often feel heavily burdened with the difficulties of life and our sins. Help us to find the grace to return to you and to receive your peace. **Our R/**
5. That we might have the grace and power to turn to the mercy of the Risen Christ, Our Saviour so that we might be cleansed from all that separates us from him . **Our R/**

**Let us summarize all our petitions as we say: OUR FATHER...**

**Prayers for Bombay and India...**

**Prayers for Benediction: Joyful Celebration. No. 13**

**Benediction Hymn: Joyful Celebration. No. 245**

**Divine Praises**

**Marian Prayer of Mercy: HAIL HOLY QUEEN**

**Concluding Hymn: Joyful Celebration. No. 377 – Thank you, Lord, for all you’ve done**

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF-HOUR FOR MAY**  
**CONTEMPLATING THE COMPASSIONATE JESUS**

**Hymn: Joyful Celebration no. 221 Lord, my God, my all**

Exposition: In a moment of silence we make an act of faith believing that Jesus, the Face of God's Mercy is truly present on our altar.

**[Pause for a minute's silence]**

**Act of adoration:**

Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus mediating the compassion of God. He did this in a variety of ways.

Jesus ate meals with social outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector (Luke 19:2-19). Why did Jesus eat a meal with this hated tax collector? Because Jesus could "feel with" Zacchaeus the hate people extended toward him and, instead of continuing to hate, Jesus did what God would do and broke bread with Zacchaeus. The ethos of mercy and compassion led Jesus to include all in his table fellowship.

Lord, take away our hate and indifference towards others and make us instruments of peace and reconciliation in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

**O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all  
thanksgiving be every moment Thine**

**SILENCE 3 minutes**

**Scripture Reading**

The Old Testament has innumerable images of the Compassion and goodness of God.

**[Pause for a moment after meaningfully reading each Scripture citation]**

An insightful and moving image for a merciful God is found in the book of Exodus. When Moses asks God to show him his glory, God, responds "I will pronounce my sacred name. I am the Lord, and I show compassion and pity on those I choose" (**Exodus 33:19**). In the very next chapter we read about God again saying, "I, the Lord, am a God who is full of compassion and pity, who is not easily angered and who shows great love and faithfulness." (**Exodus 34:6**).

The prophet Hosea speaking for God exclaims; "I desire mercy not sacrifice" (**Hosea 6:6**).

In addition, the psalmist often attributes to God the practice of mercy. "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord" (**Psalm 25:6**). "Have mercy on me, O God", "According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions" (**Psalm 51:1**). "He forgives all your iniquity, he heals all your diseases, he redeems your life from the pit, he crowns you with steadfast love and mercy" (**Psalm 103:3-4**) "Let your mercy come to me so that I may live" (**Psalm 119:77**). "Great is your mercy, O Lord" (**Psalm 119:156**). "Our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us", "Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us" (**Psalm 123:2, 3**).

We continue to reflect that mercy is “the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.” (MV2)

**SILENCE 5 minutes**

**Reflection:** The Meaning of the Word Compassion

The English noun compassion comes from the Latin verb (patior) which means “to feel” or “to suffer”, with the prefix “cum” in Latin which means “with.” Compassion means feeling with somebody else in a visceral way. Most commonly, compassion is associated with the feelings and suffering of somebody else and being moved by that suffering to do something. Compassion leads us to act, to be compassionate. “Compassion” does not mean to feel sorry for the person.

From Pope Francis:

“We must have the heart of Jesus, who, when he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them. I like to dream of a Church who lives the compassion of Jesus”. Pointing out the outstanding quality of mercy in the ministry of Jesus, Pope Francis writes: “The signs he works, especially in the face of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick and the suffering are all meant to teach compassion Nothing in him is devoid of compassion” [MV8]

**Gospel Reading: [Pause for a moment after meaningfully reading each citation]**

He felt sorry for the crowd, for they were like sheep without a shepherd (**Mt 9:36**); it is the same compassion that moved him to heal their sickness and infirmities (**Mt 14:14**); and to feed them sumptuously with seven loaves of bread and fish (**Mt 15:37**). When he met the widow of Naim he was moved with compassion (**Lk7:15**); and after freeing the demoniac he sent him to his community to proclaim the mercy of God (**Mk 5:19**). The Prodigal son was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with compassion, and he ran, threw his arms round his son and kissed him (**Lk15:20**)

Reflect on these and other Gospel passages of Jesus’ mercy. Becoming aware of the sad and pathetic situation around the world, Pope Francis pointedly writes: “Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters...and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help.”(MV15)

**SILENCE [3 minutes] (Ask ourselves what is Jesus inviting us to do?)**

**Hymn: Any appropriate hymn from Joyful Celebration**

**Pope Francis’ Prayer for the Year of Mercy** [Abridged]

Lord Jesus, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its risen and glorified Lord. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in

ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate everyone of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace; and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

**Marian Prayer of Mercy: HAIL HOLY QUEEN**

**Prayers for Bombay and India...**

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**Benediction Hymn: Joyful Celebration. No. 245**

**Divine Praises**

**Concluding Hymn: Joyful Celebration. No. 377 Thank you, Lord, for all you've done**

*Prepared by Fr Wilfred D'Souza SDB*

*For the*

*Archdiocesan Liturgical Committee*