



Catholic Diocese of Victoria
Office of the Bishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may be aware, Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy for the faithful, which will open on December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. To mark this significant event, Mass will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on that date at 7 PM to open the Jubilee Year of Mercy and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

As a child of the Council, I am inviting the whole people of God in the Diocese of Victoria to embrace the Jubilee of Mercy in word and deed, as set out by our Holy Father in *Misericordiae Vultus* (the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee of Mercy).

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness. (Misericordiae Vultus, § 2)

Our Holy Father calls us to demonstrate compassion, and our God calls us to love. Each of us has been the recipient of His gracious mercy, and it is our privilege to share this grace in response to His gift for us. All of us are called take the message of hope and love to the gathered and scattered, in location or spirit, so that all may know they are children of God.

I invite you to participate wholeheartedly in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and to attend this special Mass on December 8, 2015, at 7 PM at St. Andrew's Cathedral.

In Communio,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria