

Starting afresh after the summer

Opening Prayer

Surprise us, Lord,
with the beauty of our parish community.
Let us see afresh
the wonder of you,
the wonder of ourselves,
the wonder of others,
the wonder of our world.



Surprise us, Lord, again and again in the year ahead.

Excerpt from Pope Francis' letter, The Face of Mercy 1

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living.

PAUSE

The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our wellbeing and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

PAUSE

Responsory

Open us to recognise what you are creating in our communities

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open us to what you are sowing in our hearts.

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open us to see what you doing in our young people.

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open us to what you are revealing in our world today.

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open us to hear what you are saying through people around us

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open us to meet you where you are walking now through the streets of our towns and villages.

Open our eyes, Lord.

Open us to hear what you are doing anew in our world.

Open our eyes, Lord.

Closing Prayer

As the nights shorten and the days lengthen, may we walk in the light:
in God's light that helps us to see the way,
that guides us as we journey,
that warms and comforts the distressed and encourages the weary.
May we be carriers of the hope and joy of mercy to all whom we meet,
drawn ever closer to the merciful heart of God.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.