

PRAYER FOCUS FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2015

“...through the Mercy of God...rest in peace”

REFLECTION ONE



These words form part of our prayer tradition and, so often, slip gently from our lips. In this month of November the Church invites us to remember those who have gone before us – “all who have died in your mercy...”ⁱⁱⁱ those “whose earthly pilgrimage is done”ⁱⁱⁱ

Let us take some time to reflect and remember “through the mercy of God”

Mercy 'lives' in all of creation - “the steady gaze of boundless love and unlimited compassion.”ⁱⁱⁱ In recalling a tragic motor accident which occurred in a street near ours, two young children lost their lives through a simple error of judgement. No one was blamed or pilloried through the community or the media. The grief was shared by the local community who “mercy-ed” the families for years after. In a real sense that action of mercy, gave the space for God to enter. Leonard Cohen writes:

There's a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in...^{iv}

In pondering the extraordinary, mysterious reality of suffering and death, in all its forms, we recall the loss of those we have loved and the limitless mercy that poured over us.

*Place a bowl/tray/basket into a prayer space in your home –
each time you wish to “re- member” –*

*include a name(s) a few words, an image, a small symbol or swatch of
colour which might illustrate something about the person/issue for which
you wish to join in prayer. Place it gently.*

Let your memories unfold. Invite contemplation.

REFLECTION TWO

"The wound is the place where the light enters you."^v



As our hearts turn to those we love and remember - what of those we do not know - our "neighbours?" There are times when our sensibilities can be so troubled by deep darkness and a depletion of hope. It can be difficult to see beyond the wounds to the place where light enters! Hundreds of news reports coming into our living rooms reveal the suffering and loss of vulnerable "neighbours" of ours. Some are lost through the 'groaning' of the earth; some to war and conflict; some as a result of family violence; some seeking freedom and hope. The scale can be too great to comprehend. We rail and struggle too, against the loss of our neighbours caused by a lack of truth and right relationships in the politics of state and church; in law; in communities and in families.

Catherine McAuley reminds us: *Let us pray well and never grow weary.*

We weep with our God, with our brothers and sisters, and we grieve as we journey together. We find ourselves falling over and over into the mystery of Mercy unfolding within us and around us. Let us close our eyes, to see the path in a different way and re-member our God-with-us. Grace us with a willingness to understand that each person is of inestimable value, precious and unrepeatable!

May we consciously and intentionally pray and act as women of compassion, faithfulness and steadfast love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ⁱ The Roman Missal, *Eucharistic Prayer II*

ⁱⁱ The Roman Missal, *Eucharistic Prayers for Various Needs*.

ⁱⁱⁱ Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, 2015, *For Those Who've Come Across the Seas* – prayer card

^{iv} Leonard Cohen, *Anthem*, "The Future" 1992.

^v Rumi -*Mathnawi*, I, 3150-3175, 3192-3227, "The Essential Rumi" Harper San Francisco, 1995