

The Promise of Pilgrimage: Holy Hope



Gathering Prayer:

For personal prayer, light a candle to draw you into sacred space and time.

When praying together ritually light and place a candle in the centre after each verse is spoken.

“There are some who say that ‘our era, in comparison with past eras, is getting worse...’
We feel we must disagree with those prophets of gloom who are always forecasting disaster.”

John XXIII at the opening of Vatican II in 1962.

All: Lord, come to us, lead us to *holy hope* we pray.

Mercy is the length and breadth and height and depth of what we know of God –
and the light by which we know it. A bond, an infallible link of love that holds all together.

All: Lord, come to us, lead us through *mercy* to *holy hope* we pray.

The mercy of God does not come and go, granted to some and refused to others.
It is unconditional – always there, underlying everything.

All: Lord, come to us, lead us through *mercy* and *holy hope* to *divine love* we pray.

We have ever confided largely in Divine Providence and shall continue to do so.”

Catherine McAuley—Sept 24, 1841

All: Lord, come to us, lead us through *mercy*, *holy hope* and *divine love* to *faith* we pray.

“Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future
with hope.” Pope Francis *Misericordiae Vultus* 10

All: Lord, come to us now, for we are people of *hope*, rich in the power of the Spirit.

Lead us through *mercy*, *holy hope* and *faith* to *courage* we pray.

“For as the heavens reach beyond the earth and time, We swim in mercy as in an endless sea.” *Psalms* 103:11

All: Amen



Mercy ... Marimari

Our

Pilgrimage of Hope

Wokabout bilong yumi long Hope

Reflecting on Pilgrimage: A Quest for the Holy

Pilgrimage is purposeful—we can anticipate meaningful encounters, particularly with ourselves.
Would you welcome encounters? And the God of surprises?

Pilgrimage is renewing and restorative of our inner being.
What in you might need to be renewed or revitalised?

Pilgrimage allows time for prayer and reflection
Could you find time to be still and quiet?

Pilgrimage is a journey shared with other pilgrims.
Are you drawn to sharing discoveries of hope and connection with others along the way?

Pilgrimage transforms us. We walk with the Holy with hearts open to being moved and graced.
How do you feel about God’s invitation to Pilgrimage?

Journal or share after a time of silence

Pilgrim, what is the hope and quest at this time in your life?

“We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about: our hearts can always be in the same place,
centred in God—for whom alone we go forward—or stay back.”

Letter to Mary de Sales White, Dec 20, 1840

A Gospel Invitation

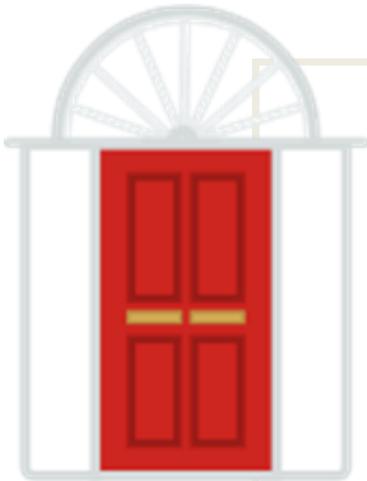
A Reading from Luke (24:13-35)

... As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

Are you drawn by the invitation to walk, discuss and stay with? How would you begin the conversation?

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Pilgrim, is there holy hope within you, waiting to be kindled?



A Jubilee Year Pilgrimage of Hope Invitation Pope Francis

"Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the 'holy door' of God's heart lies open before you."

"With haste, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet Him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives"

"Hope is divine energy and intelligence moving toward the accomplishment of its purposes: it makes use of us rather than we of it."
Cynthia Bourgeault

As people of mercy how are you feeling about the invitation to join the pilgrimage of hope?

An Invitation to Respond

Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a "safe space"
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds.
In this space
We seek to turn down the volume of the outside world.
We amplify voices that fight to be heard elsewhere,
We call each other to more truth and love
We have the right to start somewhere and continue to grow.
We have the responsibility to examine what we think we know.
We will not be perfect.
It will not always be what we wish it to be
But it will be our brave space together,
And we will work on it side by side, in mercy.

An invitation to a brave space by Micky Scottbey Jones



Song Suggestions:

The Galilee Song by Frank Anderson
Pilgrim by Enya
The Deer's Cry from *The Pilgrim*
by Lisa Kelly

Blessing of Departure Mary Wickham

Go forth from this place with joy; go forth with hopeful hearts.
Go forth from this place with remembering hearts, grateful for all that we have shared.
Go forth with arms held wide, open to what God sends to us for merciful embrace.
Go forth with ears attuned to the nuances of conversations in mercy.
Go forth from this place with feet that itch to continue the dance and to walk the roads of mercy.
Go forth from this place with enthusiastic faith in God and in one another until we meet again.
May God the Trinity of love – Creator, Word and Wisdom – bless each of us on the journey. Amen