



# Prayer Resource

FOR BOARD MEETINGS  
DURING THE YEAR OF MERCY 2016

*Mercy is the  
Lord's most  
powerful  
message*

*– Pope Francis*

[www.mercypartners.org.au](http://www.mercypartners.org.au)



## USING THESE PRAYER RESOURCES IN THE YEAR OF MERCY

Prayer is essential at the commencement of a Board Meeting for focus, to reinforce Catholic identity and to call God's blessings on the proceedings. Prayer time is also formative as it allows those present to examine aspects of life, faith and experience.

The prayers in this package focus on the nature of mercy and its application personally and communally as the Year of Mercy unfolds. Many of the ideas are taken from *The Church of Mercy* by Pope Francis.

The structure of each prayer is the same:

- **A quote, picture or other focus for gathering** – quiet background music is recommended for this part of the prayer and the lighting of a candle. A focus question has been included. (Allow 3 to 5 minutes for this section).
- **A scripture or other chosen reading** is provided with a short conceptual or contextual statement if needed. Once the reading has been shared, a few minutes of quiet contemplation should be allowed for focus on the reflection questions. (Allow 3 to 5 minutes for this section).
- **A sharing of responses which is critical for formation** and the development of a community of prayer. Leaders should stress that reflection time is not commentary on the thoughts of others but simply a time to share what ideas or thoughts the questions and readings have raised. (Allow 7 to 10 minutes for this section).
- **An intercessional prayer** which can be led by one of the board members or said together. At this time, board members could be asked for any specific prayer intentions or remembrances. (Allow 3 to 5 minutes for this section).
- **A blessing and additional text** which could be used to close the meeting or, if preferred, used at the conclusion of the opening prayer.

Depending on the level of sharing it is estimated that these reflections will take 15 to 25 minutes. They are offered as a guide to key ideas about mercy and can be supplemented with additional readings or other ritual elements such as the use of oil for anointing, sprinkling of water, sign of peace and other symbolic actions.

Like the open door at the centre of the Year of Mercy, prayer and sharing are a catalyst for change. They let in the Spirit of wisdom, presence, thanksgiving and communion.

They invite participants to open their hearts to new ways of seeing and understanding.

They bring God to the forefront of the meeting: its business, concerns, challenges and interactions.

**LET US NOT BE CLOSED TO THE NEWNESS THAT GOD WANTS TO BRING INTO OUR LIVES ...  
MERCY IS THE LORD'S MOST POWERFUL MESSAGE ... (POPE FRANCIS)**

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