

# MERCY

Gods LOVE reaching out!



Jesus in the gospels shows us by his actions and words how to live a life that allows us to be free and to build a world that is good for **everyone**. These actions and words of Jesus are where we get the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy.



### SPIRITUAL WORKS

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion where we help our neighbours with their **emotional** and **spiritual** needs. Jesus introduced these to us in his interactions with others.



### CORPORAL WORKS

The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts where we help our neighbours with their **physical needs**. They are found in Jesus' teachings (Matt 25:31-40) and give us a model for how we should treat others.

**MERCY: is a blessing that is an act of divine favour or compassion**

As a family can you name people in your community that live out some of these works in their own lives?

Can you name some charities or groups that strive for some of these works?

Is there something that you can do regularly that shows you are a family that is merciful?

## Can you match the description with the works of Mercy?

1. Instruct the ignorant	A. Be patient and kind to people, we all make mistakes!
2. Counsel the doubtful	B. Help someone understand why something is wrong
3. Forgive offences	C. Get something extra each week in your groceries to give away
4. Admonish sinners	D. Donate bedding and household goods for refugees/homeless
5. Comfort the afflicted	E. Spend time in prayer each day thinking of others
6. Pray for the living and the dead	F. Visit and support someone who is not well or struggling
7. Bear wrongs patiently	G. Use environmentally friendly cleaning products and garden sprays
8. Visit the imprisoned	H. Help someone make a good decision
9. Feed the hungry	I. Give away clothes in your closet you don't use, so someone else can
10. Give water to the thirsty	J. Don't hold a grudge and give people a second chance
11. Shelter the homeless	K. Make a card for someone who is sick and take it to the
12. Clothe the naked	L. Take some baking to someone you know who is housebound
13. Visit the sick	M. Go and visit a graveyard of someone you know.
14. Bury the dead	N. Be willing to teach others or help them learn

Answers: 1-N, 2-H, 3-J, 4-B, 5-F, 6-E, 7-A, 8-L, 9-C, 10-G, 11-D, 12-I, 13-K, 14-M

### ST PIO

St Pio of Pietrelcina is an example of a merciful man who spent as up to 12 hours a every day hearing confessions.

Padre Pio through his experience in reconciliation practiced mercy to many people, offering them forgiveness and supporting them in conversion.

St. John Paul II said that "Padre Pio was a generous dispenser of Divine Mercy."

Padre Pio was also well aware that it was because of God's mercy that he was able to do what he did. He said, "Jesus continues to love me and to draw me closer to himself. He has forgotten my sins, and I would say that he remembers only his own mercy. Each morning, he comes into my heart and pours out all the effusions of his goodness."

