RESPONSE TO PSALM:
“The Lord is king; He is robed in majesty.”

PARISH PRAYER GROUPS
Gospel sharing and a look at current Church teaching, first Monday of the month at 4:00pm and second Tuesday of the month at 9:30am. All meetings from now on will be held in the convent.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE. Are you interested in becoming a PASTORAL CARER in a healthcare facility? Course Training will begin January, 2016. If you are interested in Hospital Ministry Training and would like an application form, please contact Pastoral Care Office, Toowoomba Hospital for further details. (Applications will close during month of October and interviews will follow). Phone Lyn Cash on (07) 4616 6415

DATE CLAIMERS

Sr Margaret Endicott RSM will facilitate the next PPC Development Day which will focus on imbedding the spirituality and principles shared by Fr. Phillip Marshall (at this year’s Development Day) into the way parish pastoral councils operate, thus helping to give new energy to future pastoral councils and to the parish at large. The day will also promote networking amongst pastoral councils providing support and opportunities for ongoing formation and spiritual development. More information will be made available shortly.

Diocesan Inservice 2016 – 8-9th March. The theme “Earth’s Distress and the Mercy of God: A Biblical Exploration”. We are delighted that the Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, a well-known author and presenter on this topic will facilitate the In-service for us. Further details will be circulated once finalised.

PARISH LADIES GROUP: The last meeting for this year is at the Parish Hall at 11am Tuesday 24th November followed by lunch at the RSL at noon. The very enjoyable fellowship morning held 27th October raised $400 for Western QLD Drought relief! This has since been forwarded to the Parish Priest at Longreach. Thank you sincerely to all who contributed on the day.

COMMUNION IN YOUR PEW: if you are aged or infirm, please advise Father who will bring you communion in your place. It would help if you sit towards the front, or at least on the end of your pew.
A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP McGUCKIN

As you are aware Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee Year that has at its centre the mercy of God. This Holy Year of Mercy will have the motto “Merciful like the Father” which is an invitation to follow the merciful example of God who asks us not to judge or condemn but to offer love and forgiveness. As Pope Francis says “Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always”. The Jubilee Year begins on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday 8 December 2015 and closes on Sunday 20 November 2016.

The Jubilee of Mercy will be a moment of grace for the Church and I want all Parishes to avail themselves of the opportunity to highlight the mercy of God the Father. In order to assist in promoting and supporting local initiatives connected to the Jubilee I have established a Diocesan Year of Mercy Committee. The Committee is keen to hear from members of the diocesan community if they have suggestions for events or projects. Early in the New Year the Committee will make contact and provide some additional resources and update on our planning for the year ahead. Enclosed in this correspondence is a Year of Mercy Contact Form seeking a nominated person from each parish as a point of contact.

Of special importance is Pope Francis’ desire for there to be a Door of Mercy opened in every diocese, analogous to the Holy Doors of the Papal Basilicas in Rome. There will be a Door of Mercy at St Patrick’s Cathedral and I will officially open it on Sunday 13 December in accordance with the Holy Father’s request. The ceremony will be incorporated into the 9.00am Celebration of the Eucharist at the Cathedral and I invite you to promote this occasion throughout your Parish. Throughout the Holy Year of Mercy there will be a range of local opportunities for people to more fully engage with the celebration of this important initiative. As new programs or events are identified they will be promoted through the Diocesan Year of Mercy Committee and local parishes.

The next Diocesan In-service is scheduled for 8-9 March, 2016 and it will have the theme “Earth’s Distress and the Mercy of God: A Biblical Exploration”. We are delighted that Sr Veronica Lawson rsm, a well-known author and presenter on this topic will facilitate the in-service for us. Sr Elaine Morzone, Spirituality and Mission Development Officer, will run a series of Reflection Days highlighting the themes included in the Year of Mercy. Please promote and encourage parishioners to attend these days when the details have been finalised.

Lent will also provide central themes of love and forgiveness. I encourage you to choose a Lenten program focused on the Year of Mercy as a way of renewing and deepening our understanding and actions of mercy. (e.g. Archdiocese of Brisbane’s “Being Lost ... Being Found” program)

Contained in this correspondence is some additional information concerning the Year of Mercy. More resource material can be accessed directly from the Jubilee of Mercy website www.im.va. If you have questions or want more information concerning our local initiatives please email communications@twb.catholic.org.au

I encourage you to make the Holy Year of Mercy a pastoral priority for your Parish and for you to work collaboratively with other local Catholic organisations and institutions towards this common goal (e.g. Catholic Schools etc). Pope Francis believes that the Year of Mercy is a “new step on the Church’s journey in her mission to bring the Gospel of mercy to each person.” I join with him in entrusting this Year to the Mother of Mercy and pray that we all open our hearts to receive the never-ending mercy of God.