

# Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families

Monthly newsletter for parents: **November 2016**



## The Closing of the Year of Mercy

**Mercy.** It's a strange word to explain, isn't it? Is it merely forgiveness? Or perhaps something to do with the withholding a deserved reprimand? Children certainly know how to provide excellent opportunities for us to live out and test our capacity for human mercy:

*[Toddler (n.) Emotionally unstable pint-sized dictator with the uncanny ability to know exactly how far to push you towards utter insanity before returning to be the most lovable creature in the world.]*

Children test patience. At times, they should be reprimanded and yet we shower them with mercy, day after day.

God's mercy – His vast and unending mercy - cannot be defined. It is uncontainable. God is too mysterious; words are too inadequate. God is too great; our understanding is too limited. As this Year of Mercy comes to a close, we can reflect once more on God, His loving mercies, and how much He delights in you.

As the Year of Mercy officially

ends, will our mercies cease or will they increase? In the Gospel for Sunday 13 November, Jesus encourages us to continue and to never tire of showing mercy. "By your faithful endurance, you will gain your souls." Now that is some promise waiting for us.

### A Prayer for the end of the Year of Mercy

Lord we thank you that You love us and You delight in showing us mercy. Holy Spirit help us to always share Your gift of mercy to others, as long as we live.

In Your Name,  
Amen

## Mercy in Schools

**Rachel Kennedy is an actress with Ten Ten who has been touring Primary Schools across the UK throughout the 'Year of Mercy'.**



Last week I asked a group of girls what they have done for the Year of Mercy. There was a surge of wonderful responses:

"We went on a pilgrimage!" said one.

"We baked bread for the homeless!" said another.

However the most memorable response was from a girl aged 5, in a cool Scouse accent, "I 'aven't done nufin' for the Year of Mercy!"

In her childlike honesty, maybe she's right - we ourselves have done nothing. God has done immeasurable things through us. This is what we have been exploring with the children in post-play workshops: God places people in our lives who show us a glimpse of God's

mercy and direct us to Him. The children are discovering that God doesn't leave us on our own, He is there for us always and provides us with release and peace.

In the daily assemblies that Ten Ten run, we pray that mercy flows from God, through us, onto other people. That has been the greatest privilege to witness first-hand, seeing the presence of God in every school we visit.