



AUTUMN SCHEDULE 2022 DIVINE MERCY CENTRE, LETTERKENNY

It is necessary to book for all Retreats. To do so, or for more information please contact the Divine Mercy Centre at: 074 9169934 or email: dvmletterkenny@gmail.com

Saturday 17th September – (Half day Retreat: 2 pm - 5.30 pm) *In the Divine Mercy School of Prayer: Why do we pray? Growth in our prayer life*

With this retreat we are starting a new cycle about prayer. Prayer is an encounter with God, who is Mercy. We want to learn how to grow in our relationship with Him by learning more about prayer and different ways and schools of praying.

In this first retreat of the series we want to look at the very basics and try to understand why do we pray at all? What is prayer and is it possible to really talk to God? We will also have a look at the process of growth in our prayer life.

The retreat starts at 2 pm and continues until 5.30 pm. It will consist of talks, time of prayer and reflection and sharing our experience of faith (also around a cuppa).

30th September to 2nd October – Weekend residential retreat (6 pm Friday, 2 pm Sunday) *Healing the Image of God the Father: Lectio Divina with the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32)*

Jesus' whole life was orientated towards the Father: He always sought to do the Father's will, He frequently communed with the Father in prayer, He wanted us to come to know the Father's love too! However, our own life experience has distorted the image of the Father in our hearts. Our image of the Father is broken and needs healing

In this **silent retreat** we will be looking at probably the most famous parable: The one of the Prodigal Son, or, as we prefer to call it, of the Merciful Father (Lk 15:11-32). We shall listen to it, meditate it, pray with it and contemplate it following an ancient practise of the Church called Lectio Divina. This will lead us to see the true face of the Father and help to heal our wounds in the relationship with Him.

The retreat starts on Friday evening at 6 pm and concludes on Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. Cost €149 inclusive.

Saturday 15th October – (Half day retreat: 2 pm – 5.30 pm) *In the Divine Mercy School of Prayer: Thanksgiving and prayer in everyday life.*

In this cycle we focus on the theme of prayer. Prayer is an encounter with God, who is Mercy. We want to learn how to grow in our relationship with Him by learning more about prayer and different ways and schools of praying.

During this month's meeting we will be looking at the meaning of prayer of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is essential in our prayer life and yet so often gets lost somewhere on the way. We will also have a look at the practicalities of praying in our busy, everyday lives. Often we find it hard to find time to pray, or don't know how to get started. This retreat will offer some very helpful tips on all these issues.

We shall start at 2 pm and continues until 5.30 pm. The programme includes talks, time of prayer and reflection and sharing our experience of faith (also around a cuppa).

Saturday 12th November – (Half day Retreat: 2 pm - 5.30 pm) *In the Divine Mercy School of Prayer: How to meditate in everyday life?*

In this cycle we focus on the theme of prayer. Prayer is an encounter with God, who is Mercy. We want to learn how to grow in our relationship with Him by learning more about prayer and different ways and schools of praying.

The Christian practise of meditation has a long tradition and there are many ways of doing it. We want to explore them, so that each of us can find a method that suits him best. The Carmelite tradition, Ignatius of Loyola, the practise of Lectio Divina all give us different hints at how to meditate. Getting to know them is a great help to develop our relationship with the Lord.

The retreat starts at 2 pm and continues until 5.30 pm. It will consist of talks, time of prayer and reflection and sharing our experience of faith (also around a cuppa).

25th – 27th November – Weekend Residential Retreat (6 pm Friday - 2 pm Sunday): *God's Mercy in the Gospel of John (silent retreat)*

Each of the Gospels shows us the face of the Merciful Lord. But each also paints the picture in a different style. In this retreat we will focus on the way John paints his portrait of Jesus, who is Mercy itself. We shall look at a few passages, trying to understand them better, but, most of all, trying to pray with them and in prayer discover what God is saying to each of us personally.

The retreat will be guided by the Sisters in an atmosphere of silence. This is to help us better listen to God's word and be more attentive to His voice. Our busy everyday lives are often very distracted and noisy. Silence helps us refocus and open our hearts to God, who is constantly in a dialogue with us.

The retreat starts on Friday evening at 6 pm and continues until Sunday afternoon at 2 pm. **Cost €149 inclusive.**

Friday 16th December – (Evening Retreat): *Prepare to receive Christ's peace this Christmas.*

With Christmas just around the corner we get so caught up in the preparations that we often lose sight of what is really important: the mystery of Christ's Incarnation. This Saturday afternoon will give us an opportunity to remind ourselves what Christmas is all about and to prepare our hearts to receive the graces the Child Jesus wants to bring us. It's a real chance to refocus and spend some quiet time with the Lord, in longing and awaiting for His coming.

We shall start at 6 pm and continues until 9.30 pm. The programme includes talks, time of prayer and reflection and sharing our experience of faith (also around a cup of tea and some biscuits).

