



The Catholic Archdiocese of  
Canberra and Goulburn

# Media Statement

---

9 December 2015

## Archbishop to open Holy Door for Year of Mercy

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Christopher Prowse will officially bless and open a special Holy Door at St Christopher's Cathedral on December 13, to mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

The opening will take place during the 11am Mass at the Cathedral, with every member of the Archdiocese invited to attend.

The Year of Mercy commenced on December 8, and in accord with the wishes of Pope Francis, major churches and cathedrals around Australia and the world will open their Holy Doors in the following days.

Archbishop Prowse said the Holy Door, which features a life-size engraving depicting Christ carrying a lamb on his shoulders, would be symbolic of the mercy of God.

"Pope Francis says 'The Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy, through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God, who consoles, pardons and instils hope,' (*Misericordiae Vultus*, s.3)," the Archbishop said.

"It's a symbolic gesture, people reverently passing through can move towards a conversion from sinfulness to embracing God's loving kindness."

The Year of Mercy concludes on November 20, 2016.

### \*\*\*\*\* MEDIA OPPORTUNITY \*\*\*\*\*

**Where:** St Christopher's Cathedral, Franklin St, Forrest, ACT

**When:** 11am, Sunday, December 13, 2015

**What:** Archbishop Christopher Prowse will bless and open the Holy Door of St Christopher's Cathedral.

### Media Enquiries

Cathy Moffitt

02 6201 9811