

Opening the Doors of Mercy



Week 7– Sliding Doors

“God comes to us disguised as our life.”

Paula D’Arcy

Our reflections in this series so far have used stories, quotes and poems, to think about how we Open Doors of Mercy for ourselves and others – in this reflection we draw inspiration from the world of cinema.

The 1998 movie *Sliding Doors* tells the story of a PR executive (Helen) who loses her job and rushes out of the office to catch a train home. In one scenario Helen makes her way to the station and catches the train. In another scenario a small girl with a doll gets in Helen’s way, making her a few seconds late and the doors close on her, resulting in her missing the train. The movie then explores the impact of this seemingly insignificant event, looking at the two different ways that Helen’s life, and the lives of the people around her unfold hinging on this pivotal moment of either missing or catching a train.

Our days are made up of hundreds of seemingly small events and interactions, many of which can seem insignificant at the time - and yet we all know the significant impact that people have had in our lives in fleeting moments – the helping hand, the knowing smile, the time to listen, the accidental meeting, some words of affirmation or just in being noticed.

These moments where we are invited significantly into the lives of others don’t always present themselves with a fanfare, but often happen in the milieu of the everyday.

For Reflection:

Remember and hold in gratitude an encounter with someone that changed the course of your life for the better.

How might you better attend to the many “Mercy moments” that you are invited into each day?

“In this Jubilee year, let us allow God to surprise us.”

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction, Jubilee Year of Mercy.

“When you work at street level you never know who's going to walk through your door.”

John Grisham

