



St Joseph's Church, Bassendean

20 Hamilton Street Bassendean WA 6054

PO Box 9 Bassendean WA 6934

<https://stjosephbassendean.com>

Office Tel : 9379 2691, Presbytery Tel : 9279 1549

Parish Email : bassendean@perthcatholic.org.au

P. Priest Email : pp.bassendean@perthcatholic.org.au

Parish Priest : Fr. Antony Suresh

Secretary Catherine Gordon

(Tue-Fri. 9:00am -12:30pm)

Perpetual Adoration Co-ord. : Tina Russo 0419 004 944

Liturgy Co-Ord. : Michael Knubley 0418 911 961

Safeguarding officers : Laura Roberts 0438 216 276

Nicola Gallagher 0424 108 223

Mass Times

Sat Evening: Mass: 6pm

Sunday: Mass: 7am, 9am

Tues - Sat: Morning Prayer & Rosary: 6:45am
Mass 7:30am

Confessions : 30 minutes before Mass

Confessions, Baptism & Marriage by appointment

5TH APRIL 2024

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Sunday: What's This Feast All About, Anyway?

By Robert Stackpole, STD (director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy)

The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska is filled with invitations from our Lord Jesus Christ to celebrate with Him the great Feast of the Divine Mercy. In numerous passages, Jesus spelled out for her "why," "when," "who," and "what to expect" at this special banquet.

First, why did Jesus ask the Church, through St. Faustina, to institute the Feast of Mercy? As recorded in Diary entry 965, Jesus said to Faustina: *Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them ... the Feast of My mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity. Secretary of My mercy, write, tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice is near.*

In short, the main reason that Jesus wanted this feast to be established is that He wanted to "throw a lifeline," so to speak, to souls who are perishing, souls who are drowning in sin and despair. That lifeline is this Feast, with all the tremendous promises of graces and benefits which Jesus attached to it. As He said to St. Faustina, He wanted to make this Feast day a special "refuge and shelter" for the "consolation" of souls. In short, Jesus gave us this Feast as both a comfort and a lifeline for souls.

Second, "when" is this Feast to be celebrated? Jesus said to her: "I desire that the First Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy." Today that Sunday is called in the Roman Missal "The Second Sunday of Easter, or Divine Mercy Sunday."

Third, in order to discover "who" is invited to this great Feast, and what kind of spiritual "banquet" our Lord wants to spread for us on that day, we need to consult Diary entry 699, in which Jesus spells out in detail the meaning of this feast day, and the comforting promises He attached to it. Jesus said to St. Faustina: *My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even*

though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.

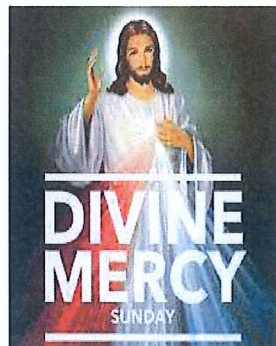
From these words of our Lord, it should be clear who is invited to the Feast of Mercy. He states clearly: "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls" - that is, for all penitent souls without exception - but "especially" for "poor sinners." So the special guests at the Feast of Mercy - the guests who will receive the most attention - are poor sinners, those who are most in need of His mercy.

This means, of course, that this banquet is spread especially for poor sinners who know in truth that they are poor sinners. It is only repentant sinners who will be able to receive all the graces offered by Jesus on this special day. That is why Jesus asks us to prepare for this feast day by making a good confession. Just as in Christ's parable of the Pharisee and the Publican it was the publican who went away from his prayers "justified," for he had come before the Lord with nothing but a simple cry from his heart for mercy: "Lord have mercy on me, a sinner!" (Lk 18:9-14).

The Feast of Mercy is especially for souls like that, souls open to receive Christ's forgiveness and grace because they know that they need it so badly. This Feast is for the lost, that they might be found, and for those struggling to grow in faith, hope, and love, that they might be refreshed and strengthened. On the other hand, those who believe that they have no need of divine mercy will not be able to receive mercy on that day. They are like the Pharisee in the parable: God cannot fill them with His grace, because they are already full of themselves!

Then what are the graces and benefits that our Lord wants to spread out before us on Mercy Sunday? Again, Jesus said to St. Faustina (Diary, 699): *On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow.*

To be continued in pg 3...



Hallelujah

April

Sun 7th April Baptism of Evan Toh @ 10:30am
 Tue 9th April Legion of Mary @ 9:00am
 Sat 13th April Confessions/Reconciliation @ 5:30pm

Liturgy Roster for 13th / 14th Apr 2024			
Mass	6:00pm	7:00am	9:00am
ACOLYTES	D Mathews	A Dzieciol	C D'Monte; J Calleja
READERS	Dee Mathews	I Darch	F Oddi
COMMS	P Antoni	A Greenfield	N Menda
SERVERS	S Salamone; Z Lagura		F & Fab Diraviam
Counters	Team 6 - A and C Fanetti		
Cleaners	M Hewitt		

Mass Remembrances/Anniversaries/Sp. Int.

RS=repose of the soul /TG=thanksgiving / SP=special intention

SAT 6-Apr 6:00 PM RS-Flory Fernandez, Alice Simon,
 Nickles Eugin
 SP -Margaret Mc Neill ,
 TG-Olive Cardlho, Jim Benitz & fam
 SUN 7-Apr 7:00 AM RS-Fr Tiziano Bogoni,
 Sp-Simon Foo-healing
 9:00 AM RS-Frank Lombardi and dec fam
 RS-Peter Thang, Maria Cuc, Maria Tinh
 & fam
 RS-Geoff Gordon, Dominic Lai Cheung,
 RS- Jane Leung Chin Chun,
 RS-Dec fam of Lai & Gordon

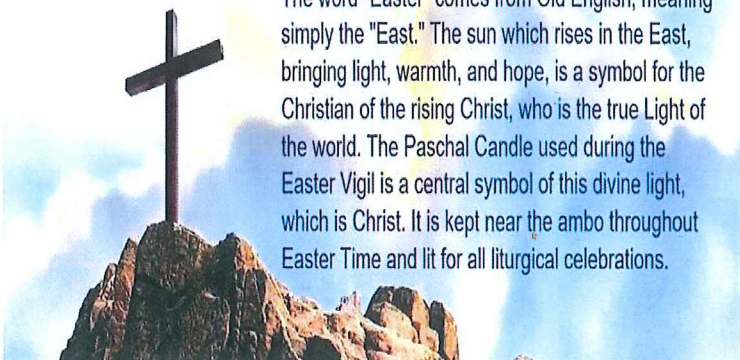
TUE 9-Apr 7:30 AM RS-Teresa Agostini
 WED 10-Apr 7:30 AM Sp-Simon Foo-healing
 THU 11-Apr 7:30 AM RS-Victoria Mitchell
 FRI 12-Apr 7:30 AM
 SAT 13-Apr 7:30 AM Sp-Simon Foo-healing
 6:00 PM RS-Lazarus Vincent
 SUN 14-Apr 7:00 AM
 9:00 AM



Pray for :-

Those who are suffering in wars, in natural diasters, in religious persecutions and the sick, Anka Erceg, Graziela Carbone, Rosa Zonato, Simon Foo, Francisco Paterniti, Ventura Ramos-Nunez, Maria Pacca, Geraldine O Sullivan, Ermelina Vescovo and Clara Pound.

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle used during the Easter Vigil is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and lit for all liturgical celebrations.



**** Free Easter blessed Holy Water in bottles** - The parish has prepared bottles of Holy water, blessed on the night of the Easter vigil. Please feel free to take home to bless your house and your family. May the grace, love and blessings of the Resurrected Christ be with you and family.

****Thank You! -Caritas Australia** would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project

Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes, please bring them back next week and put them in the parish collection bags or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations.

***** St. Joseph Evangelizing with Catholic talks/ movies with Fr Marcellinus** every Tue from 11:00am at St. Joseph Library, coffe, tea & snacks provided. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the movies and fellowship. Resume after Easter break on Tue April 16.

******Movies that Matter**

Do you enjoy going to the cinema? Then please consider supporting movies that are inspiring and morally uplifting. By doing so, production companies will be encouraged to produce more of these types of films. Currently screening is:



Cabrini - the true story of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. The Italian-born founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the first United States citizen to be canonized. Be inspired by the obstacles and hardship she faced in establishing the religious institute in America. She is the patron saint of immigrants. Watch the movie to discover why.

A special screening will take place on Monday 29th April at 6.30pm. More details in next week's bulletin.

**** Divine Mercy Sunday Pilgrimage**, held this Sunday, 7th April at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Lower Chittering. Beginning at 11.30am with confessions, lunch and talk; 1.30pm Mass; 3pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy and veneration of 1st class relic of St Faustina; concluding with afternoon tea.

**** 13 Apr REFLECTION DAY - FRANCISCANS PRAYING WITH THE CHURCH-** 2024 is the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee 2025 theme Pilgrims of Hope. Reflection Day, **Saturday 13 April, 10am to 3pm**, at **Peace Be Still, 1324 Chittering Road, Lower Chittering**. Two talks will be given by Anne-Marie Langdon ofs and Noel D'Souza ofs with time for sharing and discussion. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided for \$20. Angela McGuire, 0408 801 215.



OUR PARISH FAMILY...

Continue from page 1

What Jesus is offering to us here is a complete renewal of baptismal grace, a complete cleansing of the soul and washing it clean, renewing within us all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit that we received at our baptism. Of course, it is certainly true that whenever we make a good Confession out of perfect contrition for sin and pure love for God, we can receive the same complete renewal of baptismal grace, the same complete cleansing of our souls that Jesus promised we could receive from Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy.



The problem is: How many of us make our Confessions as an act of perfect contrition and pure love of God? Unless we are well on the road to sanctity, it is very rare that we are able to do this. Nevertheless, Jesus is so generous and merciful toward us that on Mercy Sunday, He has given us another way to attain the complete refreshment of our souls in grace. ***If only we make a sincere confession in preparation for the Feast, and then receive Holy Communion on that day with trust in His divine mercy, we can receive the same complete spiritual renewal.*** He does not ask of us an act of perfect love of God, or perfect contrition on that day in order that we may receive such a gift. All He asks is that we come to Him with trust (Diary entry 1578):

"The graces of My mercy are drawn by the means of one vessel only, and that is - trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." Trust is a combination of "faith", "hope", "humility" and merely imperfect "love".

The renewal of baptismal grace that we receive from the Holy Communion on Mercy Sunday serves to strengthen us in all these virtues, but especially in our love for Jesus Christ, so that we begin to love Him for His own sake - for the glory of His name, the spread of His kingdom, and for the consolation of His Heart - and not just for ourselves, for our own benefit. In short, by trust we open the door to Christ so that He can pour out upon us a whole ocean of graces on Mercy Sunday!

Jesus also left three more instructions for St. Faustina that must not be forgotten.

First, He wanted priests to proclaim clearly the message of Divine Mercy on Mercy Sunday. Diary entry 570: "On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy." "... Hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart." By His providential design, our Lord has already given a helping hand to priests to carry out His plan for Mercy Sunday. The fact is that the traditional texts of the Missal for that Sunday already proclaim His Mercy loud and clear.

Second, Jesus asked that the Image of The Divine Mercy be publicly venerated on this Feast day. Jesus said to St. Faustina: "... I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it."

To "venerate" a sacred image or statue simply means to perform some act, or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents: in this case, our most merciful Savior. A parish might venerate the image by having prayers to the merciful Jesus said before it, and/or placing flowers before it and putting it on view in a position of prominence in the sanctuary, and/or by censuring the image (i.e., using incense), honoring the image along with the altar and sacred vessels during the liturgy.

It should come as no surprise that Jesus wanted this image to be venerated on Divine Mercy Sunday. After all, the Image of The Divine Mercy sums up the whole devotion to God's mercy in one picture. It depicts His merciful love for us both in His Passion and in the Resurrection - the whole Paschal mystery. Also, in the inscription at the bottom of the image, we find a summary of the basic response that Jesus asks of each of us to His merciful love: "Jesus, I trust in You."

In short, our Lord not only wants His priests to proclaim the message of Divine Mercy in words on that day; He also wants the message to be proclaimed through a sacred image - a visual aid, so to speak - because He knows well the truth of what we commonly say: "A picture is worth a thousand words."

Finally, Jesus made it very clear to St. Faustina that in preparation for the Feast of Mercy we need to be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers. If we are not practicing the works of mercy in our lives, then our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday would be a kind of blasphemy, rather than an offering pleasing to the Lord (Mic 6:6-8):

This requirement is simple enough to understand. Jesus Himself repeated it to His disciples (Lk 6:36): "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." He taught St. Faustina much the same thing, in connection with the Feast of Mercy (Diary, 742):

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy. ... I demand from you deeds of mercy which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.

Not only are the works of mercy a good preparation for this feast day, they are also the fruit that the Lord intends to grow as a result of the graces poured out on this day. The mercy we receive in our hearts on Divine Mercy Sunday is meant to be shared with others. The graces poured into our hearts by our merciful Lord are meant to flow through our hearts to our neighbors in need.

In this way, Divine Mercy Sunday even enables us to show a kind of "mercy" to Jesus Himself: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me ... truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25: 35-40).

Whether we are showing mercy to the materially poor, or to the spiritually poor, we are sharing divine mercy with those whose plight is ever close to the compassionate Heart of our Savior. What better way to complete our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday than to share it with the poor - and thereby return it to Him?

Thanks be to God for inviting us to this great banquet of mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday!



The Living Word

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

7 April 2024

First Reading Acts 4:32-35

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

*(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting*

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the
Lord,
but not doomed to die. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 5:1-6

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

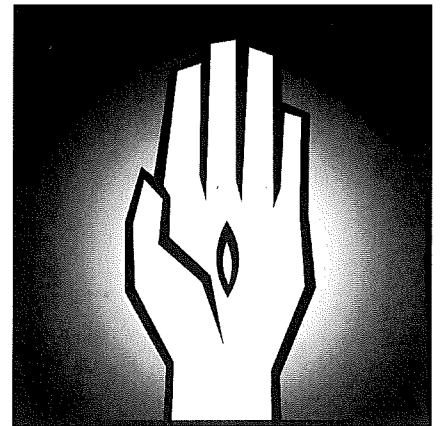
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith.

Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God.

Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith.

We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

mtate@bigpond.com

Communion Antiphon

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.