



Devotion to Jesus, the Divine Mercy

"As I have loved you so also should you love one another." (John 13:34)

The Image of the pierced side of Christ pouring out blood and water reminds us that the Cross, love in action, is the price of mercy.

The message is as simple as **ABC**:

A — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. **"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us"** (Matt 6:12)

B — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others as He does to us. **"The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you"** (Matt 7:2)

C — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive. **"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy"** (Matt 5:7)

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, the Octave of Easter, observed by Roman Catholic as well as some Anglicans. It is originally based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Church.

The feast of Divine Mercy, as recorded in the diary of Saint Faustina, receives from Jesus himself the biggest promises of grace related to the Devotion of Divine Mercy. In specific, Jesus reputedly said that a person who goes to sacramental confession (the confession may take place some days before) and receives holy communion on that day, shall obtain the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment. That means each person would go immediately after death to heaven without suffering in purgatory (or hell). Additionally, the Roman Catholic Church grants a plenary indulgence (observing the usual rules) with the recitation of some simple prayers....

This devotion was actively promoted by Pope John Paul II. On April 30, 2000, the Canonization of Faustina Kowalska took place and the Sunday after Easter was officially designated as the Sunday of the Divine Mercy (Dominica II Paschae seu de divina misericordia) in the General Roman Calendar. On April 22, 2001, which was one year after establishing Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope John Paul II re-emphasized its message in the resurrection context of Easter...

St Michael's Catholic Church

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15–5:45pm; Sat: 4:15–4:45pm;

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS:

Saturdays 4pm

CHAPLETS OF DIVINE MERCY/ST

MICHAEL: Sundays 4pm

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

80% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

3rd April 2016 (C)

Divine Mercy Sunday /
2nd Sunday of Easter

1ST READING: Acts 5:12-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

2ND READING: Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

ENTER THE HOLY DOORS, CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE, AND RECEIVE JUBILEE PLENARY INDULGENCE!

THROUGH NOVEMBER 20, 2016



MASS INTENTION:

Sat Vigil: Living & Deceased relatives & friends of M. Thomson

OUR SICK: Archbishop **Anthony Fisher**, **Josephine Helback**, **Alan Sargeant**, **Richard Swords**, **Bob Campbell** and **Southern Cross residents...**

Happy Birthdays to: Mark Sarmiento (7th) and Pat De La Motte (8th).

Parish School News: 1) Please support the parish school **SVdP Night Patrol initiative**. Non-perishable snacks and small food items can now be placed in the box provided in the church foyer at any time. *This is an ongoing programme....* 2) **Term 1 ends this Friday 8th April.** We wish all staff, Catechists, children and their families a safe and restful holiday. Term 2 begins on Tuesday 26th April.

Easter Offering envelopes are now available in the pews. The money from these envelopes goes to a Central Fund that attends to the needs of the priests of the Archdiocese. These include: sick priests, priests in special works, migrant chaplains and priests undertaking further studies. Some of these priests are often "out of sight, out of mind" but they do need to be supported. Please give them some thought especially at this time.

Please return all **PROJECT COMPASSION** donation boxes **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** for processing to Caritas Australia. (Please place your boxes in the designated basket at the altar and fill in your details if you require a tax receipt). Thank you.

Catechist News: SINCERE THANKS to John Spora who has officially become our new voluntary Catechist Co-ordinator for Daceyville Public School. John is taking over from **Gennie Hage**, who is retiring after 9 years of voluntary service. Please pray for John in his new Ministry. (A thank you morning tea will be organised to recognise Gennie for her wonderful service and support in this Ministry).

VISITATIONS to the Sick and Housebound. If any parishioner knows of a member of our parish who is unable to come to Mass, either temporarily or permanently, and would like Holy Communion taken to them on a weekly basis, would you kindly ring Gennie, our Ministers of the Sick co-ordinator on 9663 3657 to make appropriate arrangements.

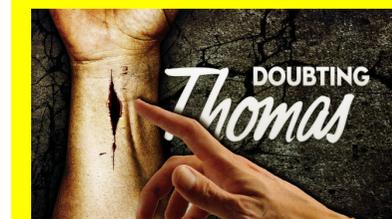
This weekend: Vigil: J Haggart (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) F & G Hogan (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) G Guerrero, A Burke (R) O Sarmiento, J Yong (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: Anu V, Magdi Z (A) K Wong, B Wong (R) C Goncalves, L Tjoe (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: Volunteer (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Hogan, A Pennisi

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggart (A) S Kirpalani, R Williams (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab, (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) B Long, G Hage (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: Anu V, Magdi Z (A) C Findlay, R Tantiogco (R) R Houghton, A Balila (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: Volunteer (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** J De Andrade, B Yong

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER- YEAR C

Dear friends,

We have celebrated a very joyful Easter through our belief in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead! Today the gospel of St. John reveals two distinct but not unrelated events. Firstly, the disciples are still gathered together in fear, because they believe that the same fate that befell Jesus will also be what happens to them: death on a cross. But in the midst of their fear comes Jesus, who bears them no ill will, but rather re-affirms their place in his Kingdom as his disciples. Not only that, he commissions them to go out, and in his name, through the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins. However, our good friend Thomas, who is not present when Jesus appears to the disciples, introduces the element of doubt into the story. He needs the physical evidence of Jesus' presence before he will believe. The later appearance of Jesus to him dispels his doubt, and he proclaims that great acclamation of faith in Jesus as the Son of the Father with the words: MY LORD AND MY GOD! St. John in writing these words for us in 2016, tells us that he has written these words so that: 'these words are recorded so that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that believing this we may have life through his name.' We know that doubt and fear are very necessary factors in our lives. Fear, can and does prevent us from being harmed in a dangerous situation. Doubt, likewise can also protect us from false ideas and unscrupulous people. But, there must always be room to challenge fear and doubt when they keep us from living our lives for Christ. May this Easter season be a time of joy and peace, as we put to rest our fears and doubts, and place our trust in the risen Jesus!



Fr Kelvin

Other Notices: ☛ **Come & See** how a gift to CatholicCare can help transform lives. Visit the Norma Parker Respite Centre, 76 Hampden Rd, Lakemba on **8th April**, enjoy a light lunch and learn about the Centre. Bookings essential on 9509 111. ☛ **WALK WITH CHRIST POSTPONED.** Due to complications associated with the Light Rail works in the CBD, the decision has been taken to postpone the annual Eucharistic Procession, Walk With Christ, to a time close to the Feast of Christ the King (Sunday 20 November 2016). This will allow us to close the Year of Mercy with the Eucharistic Procession. His Grace also hopes that he might be able to accompany the procession in November. We are extremely grateful for the efforts of the personnel at Sydney's Transport Management Centre for the collaborative way in which they have engaged with us and we are hopeful of resolving a suitable route for November.