

## Reflection Tuesday Week 27 St Faustina Kowalska 2021

Helena Kowalska was born on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1905 in Głogowiec, near Łódź, Poland, the third of ten children of a poor religious family. From an early age she had a religious vocation but faced opposition from her parents and rejection by several convents. She was finally accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1925, taking the name Sister Mary Faustina. She lived there for the rest of her short life. Her work as cook, gardener and porter revealed nothing of her rich mystical interior life.

The mystery of the Mercy of God at the centre of St Faustina's spirituality was revealed to her by Jesus in visions and conversations from early 1931. *"Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart."*

With the help of the nuns' confessor, Father Michael Sopoćko, the devotion to the Divine Mercy began. An image of the Divine mercy was painted at Sister Faustina's instruction and she wrote instructions for a Novena of the Divine Mercy. Sister Faustina died on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1938. Devotion to the Divine Mercy spread widely and fast. In 1956 Pope Pius XII blessed an image of the Divine Mercy. In 1978 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith allowed devotion to The Divine Mercy. Moves are afoot to have her declared a Doctor of the Church. Faustina Kowalska was beatified 18<sup>th</sup> April 1993 and canonized 30<sup>th</sup> April 2000. The second Sunday of Easter was officially designated Divine Mercy Sunday.

The story of Nineveh, who repented the way they lived and were saved from destruction, is a song of Hope. St Faustina taught us about the mercy of God, if we radically change the way we live to help heal our planet, God's mercy will save us from the impending destruction of our planet.

St Faustina Pray for us.

**When I was small, I prayed every night for a new bicycle.** Then I learned the Lord doesn't work that way, so I stole one and prayed for mercy and forgiveness instead.