



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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. *(Jesus Christ speaking to Saint Faustina)*

Today is the 8th Day of the Octave of Easter. With an explosion of joy, the church last Sunday proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ, a singular event in human history which ushers in a new age of grace, of light and of love.

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Because the grace of this Easter day could not be contained within a single day, the church prolonged Easter Sunday by celebrating it for eight days. This Sunday is the last and greatest day of this octave, the 8th day, the day in which everything announced, and

promised in the Easter celebrations, is offered to you and me in abundance, free, gratis and for nothing. All we have to do is receive, no stings attached! This is why this Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday.

Many of us will be familiar with the picture . This picture, is intimately connected with this celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. This picture invites us to make an act of trust in God's mercy – invites us to stop thinking that our sins are greater than God's power to save.

In it Christ is seen with his hand raised in blessing, his other hand points to two rays which emerge from his side. These two rays emerge from the wound which Christ sustained from the lance of Longinus, the Roman soldier who pierced his side with his lance. Just as Eve, the bride of Adam was taken from his side as Adam slept in the Garden of Eden. Christ's bride the church, you and me, were born from the side of Christ, from a heart pierced by love for us, as Christ slept his sleep of death on the cross. The fountain from which the sacramental life of the church is nourished is this blood and water which flowed from the side of Christ. The white ray represents the baptismal grace—water; and the red - blood - the sacraments of the Eucharist and confession.

At the bottom of this picture there is always the words, '**JESUS I TRUST IN YOU**'. Christ invites us not simply to believe in him - but to something more, to trust him, and to cast ourselves upon on his mercy, a mercy which saves all, and justifies all.

FR DAVID