

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or of DIVINE MERCY) (Year A)

Divine Mercy Sunday

In a series of revelations to St Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as *Divine Mercy Sunday*, named by Pope St John Paul II at the canonisation of St Faustina on April 30, 2000.

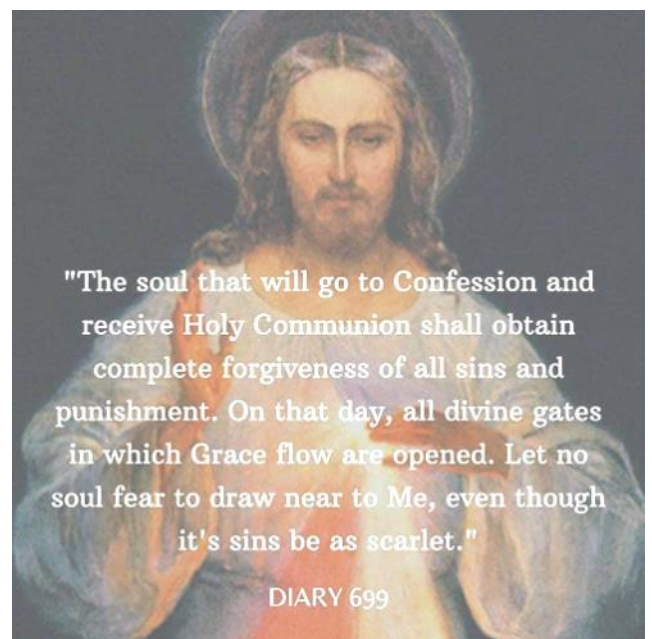
Our Lord expressed his will with regard to this feast in his first and most comprehensive revelation to St Faustina, which can be found in her Diary entry 699:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a 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 are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. 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 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.

In all, St Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast.

The 2nd Sunday of Easter was already a Solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title *Divine Mercy Sunday* does, however, highlight the meaning of the day.



Peace be with you! The Lord says these words a third time when, eight days later, he appears to the disciples and strengthens the flagging faith of Thomas. Thomas wants to see and touch. The Lord is not offended by Thomas's disbelief, but comes to his aid: "Put your finger here and see my hands". These are not words of defiance but of mercy. Jesus understands Thomas's difficulty. He

does not treat Thomas with harshness, and the apostle is deeply moved by this kindness. From a disbeliever, he becomes a believer, and makes the simplest and finest confession of faith: “My Lord and my God!”. These are beautiful words. We can make them our own and repeat them throughout the day, especially when, like Thomas, we experience doubts and difficulties.

For the story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord’s mercy. In those situations, Jesus does not approach us in triumph and with overwhelming proofs. He does not perform earth-shattering miracles, but instead offers us heart-warming signs of his mercy. He comforts us in the same way he did in today’s Gospel: he offers us his wounds. We must not forget this fact. In response to our sin,—the ugliest of sins, whether ours or someone else’s—the Lord is always present offering us his wounds. Do not forget this.

Pope Francis, Divine Mercy Sunday 2022

During the Jubilee of the Year 2000 the beloved [now St] John Paul II established that throughout the Church the Sunday after Easter should be called *Domenica in Albis* and *Divine Mercy Sunday*. This occurred contemporaneously with the canonisation of Faustina Kowalska, a humble Polish Sister who was born in 1905 and died in 1938, a zealous messenger of the Merciful Jesus. Indeed, mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creative and redemptive Love. May this merciful love also shine on the face of the Church and show itself through the sacraments, in particular that of Reconciliation, and in works of charity, both communitarian and individual. May all that the Church says and does manifest the mercy God feels for man, and therefore for

us. When the Church has to recall an unrecognised truth or a betrayed good, she always does so impelled by merciful love, so that men and women may have life and have it abundantly (cf. Jn 10:10). From divine mercy, which brings peace to hearts, genuine peace flows into the world, peace between different peoples, cultures and religions.

Like Sr Faustina, John Paul II in his turn made himself an apostle of Divine Mercy. In the evening of the unforgettable Saturday, 2 April 2005, when he closed his eyes on this world, it was precisely the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter and many people noted the rare coincidence that combined the Marian dimension—the first Saturday of the month—and the dimension of Divine Mercy. This was in fact the core of John Paul II’s long and multi-faceted Pontificate. The whole of his mission at the service of the truth about God and man and of peace in the world is summed up in this declaration, as he himself said in Krakow-Łagiewniki in 2002 when he inaugurated the large Shrine of Divine Mercy: “Apart from the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for mankind”. John Paul II’s message, like St Faustina’s, thus leads back to the Face of Christ, a supreme revelation of God’s mercy. Constant contemplation of this Face is the legacy he bequeathed to us which we joyfully welcome and make our own.

Pope Benedict, Divine Mercy Sunday 2008

Magnificat — April

The April *Magnificat* (£5) is still available to buy. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for copies.

Club Lodwar March 2023 Prize Winners

1 st	£164.80	101	Philomena Casey
2 nd	£123.60	63	Jeremy Sharman
3 rd	£ 41.20	56	Andrei Karlsson
4 th	£ 41.20	20	Michael Drudy
5 th	£ 41.20	42	Tom Hunt

Thank you for your support. Membership is still available. It would make a treasured and loving gift.

Understanding yourself in today's world

In June we shall be hosting a seminar with this title. It is billed as "A Reflection on Faith, Science and the Human Person", led by Dr James Navarro, and will take place from 15:00 to 17:45 on 17 and 18 June. For more information please pick up a flyer from the back of the church.

Gift Aid and Planned Giving

The boxes of envelopes for the next tax year starting on 9th April are available to be collected. If there has been any change in your situation (new address, change in tax status, change of name), please kindly contact our Finance Officer, Yolaine, at: swisscottagefin@rcdow.org.uk as soon as possible.

If you are a UK Income or Capital Gains Taxpayer, please sign a Gift Aid Declaration and support our parish in this free, easy way (donating either via online transfers to the parish bank account, standing order, weekly envelopes or using the Contactless devices). Gift Aid means our parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you. Thank you!

Young Adults Group

A group of young adults (between 21 and 30 years of age) have started a monthly social meeting with informal discussions about philosophical, anthropological and sociological questions related to the faith. These will generally take place monthly in the Parish Hall after the 6pm Sunday Mass. Please contact Fr Alvaro for further details: alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk

Health and Safety Inspection

Looking ahead there will be a health and safety inspection of the church and the church buildings on Thursday 20th April. Unfortunately this means that there will be no 10am Mass on that day. The church will close after the 7am Mass. Please make note if you usually attend the 10am Mass. Please pray the inspection goes well and sorry for any inconvenience.

REGINA CAELI

V. Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia;

R. For he whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen as he said, alleluia;

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia;

R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant, we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Fr Nicholas should be returning from Rome this Sunday evening. His few days in the Eternal City are perhaps a way in which we can all see ourselves as very much part of the Catholic Church and renew our prayers for the Holy Father and all his intentions.

Many blessings upon all of you, your families and loved ones!

Fr Bernard and Fr Alvaro

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter

16th April – 22nd April 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 16th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or of Divine Mercy) (Readings. Year A)	9.30am People of the Parish 11am Mass Kathy Tarling (intentions) 6pm Mass Vicky Czerniszewska (intentions)	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 17th April Easter feria	7am Mass Bernard Ayers (RIP) 10am Mass Mr and Mrs B Looney (intentions)	The Church opens at 6.50am (Monday to Friday) entry via Church car park
TUE 18th April Easter feria	7am Mass Joyce Ainsworth (RIP anniversary) 10am Mass Jim and Hildegard Charles (intentions)	
WED 19th April St Alphage, Bishop & Martyr	7am Mass For Peace in Ukraine 10am Mass Amanda Ellis (intentions)	
THU 20th April Easter feria	7am Mass Mick Morris Tabet (RIP) <u>No 10am Mass</u>	Church will close after 7am Mass.
FRI 21st April St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor Friday abstinence	7am Mass Monsignor Anthony Stark (RIP) 10am Mass Cancio Fernandes (RIP)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 22nd April Easter feria	10am Mass Maroun Ramia (RIP)	The Church opens at 9.30am

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Angela Carpos; John Stoppolecamp; Wendy Bellas; Joseph Power; Ghislaine Williams; Helen Birch; Alice Hancock; Rita McNally; Mick Morris Tabet

Anniversary: Sofia Vukusic; Maroun Ramia; Iris Nally; Veronica O'Farrell; Peggy Attlee;

Confessions:

Monday to Friday (before and after 10am Mass)

Saturday: before and after 10am Mass

Sunday: 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming Events:

24th April: St George, Martyr, Patron of England

18th May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD