

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

Father Peter Cryan

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Newsletter for the week of 24th April 2022

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Easter: Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 117; Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19; John 20:19-31

Saturday 23rd April 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 2nd SUNDAY of EASTER *Divine Mercy Sunday*

Sunday 24th April 10.30am MASS: 2nd SUNDAY of EASTER

Monday 25th April 9.30am Mass FEAST: ST. MARK the EVANGELIST

Tuesday 26th April SOLEMNITY: ST. GEORGE, martyr, patron of England *Anniv. of St. Edward's parish*

Wednesday 27th April **No Mass**

Thursday 28th April (St. Peter Chanel, martyr, priest, religious, missionary) (St. Louis de Montfort, priest)

Friday 29th April **No Mass** FEAST: ST. CATHERINE of SIENA, consecrated virgin, doctor of the Church

Saturday 30th April 5.30pm 1st Mass of 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday 1st May 10.30am Mass: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Readings for 3rd Sunday of Easter: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Psalm 29; Apocalypse 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

A FACE MASK/ COVERING & HAND SANITIZING ON ENTRANCE ARE REQUIRED BOTH IN CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING

Holy Places Collection for the maintenance & upkeep of the churches & shrines in the Holy Land and support for the Catholic Communities there. Total £336.84

NO WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MASS THIS WEEK

Because of Fr. Peter's Cataract operation this week and the need to self-isolate there will not be Mass on Wednesday or Friday this week.

FUNERAL Fri 6th May 10.45am Funeral Mass for *Loretta Acton* died 26th March age 86 years. Loretta was a Minister of Holy Communion at the 10.30am Mass for several years. May she rest in peace to rise with Christ.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mon 16th May 7.30pm Agenda items by next Sunday 8th May to Chair Judy Bailey email: judyb100@hotmail.co.uk. mob: 07773 979371; Vice-Chair: Steve James email sjames2@btinternet.com; mob:07946 148531; Sec: Denise Beck email: denesque@hotmail.co.uk mob: 07769 536103

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

THE GLORY TO GOD (Peruvian Gloria)

1) *Leader:* Glory to God , glory to God, glory to the Father

All: **Glory to God, glory to God , glory to the Father.**

Leader: To him be glory for ever.

All: **To him be glory for ever.**

Leader: Alleluia, amen *All:* **Alleluia, Amen** *Leader:* alleluia, amen *All :* **Alleluia, amen**

2) *Leader:* Glory to God , glory to God, Son of the Father.

All: **Glory to God, glory to God , Son of the Father.**

Leader: To him be glory for ever.

All: **To him be glory for ever.**

Leader: Alleluia, amen *All:* **Alleluia, Amen** *Leader:* alleluia, amen *All :* **Alleluia, amen**

3) *Leader:* Glory to God , glory to God, glory to the Spirit

All: **Glory to God, glory to God , glory to the Spirit**

Leader: To him be glory for ever.

All: **To him be glory for ever.**

Leader: Alleluia, amen *All:* **Alleluia, Amen** *Leader:* alleluia, amen *All :* **Alleluia, amen**

POPE FRANCIS SALUTES BENEDICT XVI



Pope Francis visited the Pope Emeritus' two days before his 95th birthday that fell on 16th April, Holy Saturday.

Pope Francis also in a private meeting with Jesuit priests & seminarians during his visit to Malta, said that he believed the Emeritus Pope's had one of the most "profound intuitions." :

"Pope Benedict was a prophet of this Church of the future, a Church that will become smaller, lose many privileges, be more humble and authentic and find energy for the essential.....It will be a Church that is more spiritual, poorer, and less political: a Church of the little ones."

Pope Francis said :*"As a bishop, Benedict had said: let us prepare ourselves to be a smaller Church. This is one of his most profound intuitions."*

It is likely that he was referring to comments made by Bishop Joseph Ratzinger, the future Benedict XVI, in a radio broadcast in Germany, as long ago as 1969, in which the theologian reflected on the Church's future. The then Bishop Ratzinger said: *"From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge — a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning ... As the number of her adherents diminishes, so it will lose many of her social privileges. In contrast to an earlier age, it will be seen much more as a voluntary society, entered only by free decision. As a small society, it will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members."* And he added *"But in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her centre: faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world. ... The Church will be a more spiritual Church, not presuming upon a political mandate, flirting as little with the Left as with the Right."*

"It will be hard going for the Church, for the process of crystallization and clarification will cost her much valuable energy. It will make her poor and cause her to become the Church of the meek. The process will be all the more arduous, for sectarian narrow-mindedness as well as pompous self-will will have to be shed."

WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY?

Since the year 2000, the universal Church has concluded the Octave of Easter by celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. This great solemnity calls the faithful to rejoice in the *merciful love of God* as it is most profoundly manifested in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.

Less than a century ago, however, God challenged Christians to a renewed awareness and trust in His mercy, which has begun to fan the old flame of devotion into a more ardent veneration. Our Lord spoke to a young Polish nun, giving her a timeless reminder for all of humanity:

"Mankind will not have peace," He said, *"until it turns with trust to My mercy. ... Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God."*

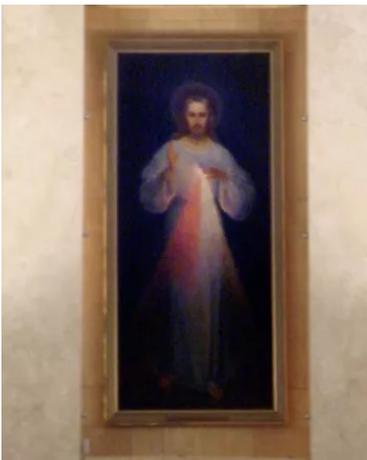
Sister Mary Faustina Kowalska, born in 1905, was a cloistered nun of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland. On 22nd February 1931, Jesus first appeared to Sister Faustina. He was clothed in a white robe, with two rays of light emanating from His heart — one red and one white, representing the blood and water that came forth from His pierced side at His crucifixion. He requested that this image be painted with the signature, *"Jesus, I trust in You,"* and promised that even the most hardened sinners who would revere this image would be saved. Our Lord told Faustina of His great desire that the first Sunday after Easter be dedicated as the "Feast of Mercy," and that this image of His mercy be known and venerated by the whole world.

Our Lord appeared to Sister Faustina — whom He called His "apostle of mercy" — many other times over the course of several years, each time speaking of His great mercy for all souls. At the direction of her confessor, Faustina documented all of her dialogues with Christ in what she called her "Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul" (which received ecclesiastical approval from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1979)

Within these pages we read the repeated and urgent plea of Our Lord's love and the purpose of His conversations with Faustina: *"My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls. ... If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy"* (Diary, p. 165).

Sister Faustina's encounters with Jesus are considered private revelation — that is, a revelation outside of the deposit of faith, and one which the faithful are not obliged to believe but are considered by the Church to have nothing in them contrary to faith or morals.

On 30th April 2000, the first Sunday following Easter, Pope John Paul both canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska and declared in his homily of that day his own desire that the "Second Sunday of Easter ... from now on throughout the world will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"





1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 24th April 2022 - Jesus in the Upper Room (John 20:19-31)

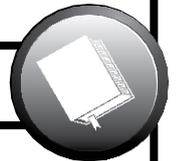
The doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. He said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this he 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."

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Two aspects of this meeting with the risen Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the Gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix. At the end, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God: nowhere else is Jesus hailed as 'God', though there are other ways in which his divinity has been indicated. So in a way Thomas' greeting of the risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus' final blessing is one of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring these gifts to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants, each in turn broken by God's chosen people, but then re-created by a forgiving God. There was the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, and finally the new covenant is promised by Jeremiah after unfaithful Israel had been exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for the sinner, who is surrounded by other sinners. As forgiven sinners we are exhorted to bring forgiveness to all those around us. How, as a forgiven sinner and part of a community of forgiven sinners, do I demonstrate the power of God's forgiveness?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB



4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.



*The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph*

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS



Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 24th April 2022

First Reading: *The Early Community*

Acts 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Before he tells us of the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, St Luke (the author of the Acts of the Apostles), describes the ideal community in Jerusalem. He stresses the unity of this community, their prayer together, their common ownership of all their possessions, their generosity to those in need, and their steadfastness under persecution by the authorities who refused to accept their message. It is the model for any Christian community, which all our Christian communities need to strive to imitate and become real centres of the love and confidence of Christ. In today's reading St Luke tells how in the early community the same signs and wonders of healing which Jesus himself had worked are now worked by the apostles too, and especially by Peter. It is a theme throughout the Acts that the followers of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, continue his work and are alive with his life, expressing the power of the risen Christ, who remains with them always. St Luke also wants to underline that Jerusalem is being given a second chance: the people there had rejected Jesus, but now they have another opportunity to welcome him, this time at the hands of his apostles, the witnesses to his resurrection. This is why St Luke underlines that the numbers of believers increased steadily. But the martyrdom of Stephen will mark the end and the failure of this second chance.

What work of Christian healing can I do now?

Second Reading: *A Vision of the LORD Jesus Christ*

Revelation 1:9-13. 17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, "Write down all that you see in a book." I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of Man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come."

“ The risen Christ will release her people from all sorrow and sadness. ”

The first reading during the season of Eastertide is about the beginnings of the Church; in Year C the second reading (taken from the Book of Revelation), is about the end and completion of the Church. This book, the last book of the Bible, was written to assure Christians, struggling under persecution from the Roman Empire, that the risen Christ would eventually bring his Church to triumph and release her people from all sorrow and sadness. It uses extravagant, cosmic imagery to emphasize God's total control of the universe, heaven and earth, and all that is in them. It is very imaginative, drawing heavily upon the imagery of the Old Testament and upon the symbolism of numbers. The narrator is the Apostle John, exiled to the Greek island of Patmos, and it begins with a vision of the risen Christ in all his glory. The phrase 'Son of Man' (used in this reading), was Jesus' favourite way of referring to himself. Here the 'Son of Man' is also reminiscent of the Son of Man in the prophet Daniel's vision; to him God gives all power over the universe. The seven lamp-stands (seven is the perfect number), represent the seven local Churches of Asia to whom the Book was primarily addressed.

This vision of Christ was written down to inspire and energize a real Christian community; can it help to inspire and energy

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*

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