

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0418 461 316
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Parish Pastoral Council: Email - springwoodppc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays to Fridays 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: No Masses until further notice
Weekday Mass: No Masses until further notice
Rosary & Devotions: No Devotions until further notice
Adoration, Rosary & Chaplet: No Adoration or Devotions until further notice
Intercession & Adoration: None until further notice
Baptisms: No Baptisms until further notice
Reconciliation: By appointment
Weddings: By appointment - restricted numbers
Funerals: By appointment - restricted numbers

On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces 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. Everything that exists has come forth 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. (*Diary of Divine Mercy* #699)

This message, spoken by Jesus to Saint Faustina in 1931, has now come true. What was spoken in the solitude of a cloistered convent in Plock Poland, now is celebrated by the Universal Church throughout the whole world!

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament was known to very few people during her lifetime. But through her, God has spoken the message of His abundant mercy to the entire Church and world. What is this message? Though its content is endless and unfathomable, here are five key ways that Jesus desires this new devotion to be lived:

The first way is through *meditation on the sacred image of The Divine Mercy*. Saint Faustina was asked by Jesus to have an image of His merciful love painted for all to see. It's an image of Jesus with two rays shining forth from His Heart. The first ray is blue, indicating the font of Mercy coming forth through Baptism; and the second ray is red, indicating the font of Mercy poured forth through the Blood of the Holy Eucharist.

The second way is through *the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday*. Jesus told Saint Faustina that He desired an annual solemn Feast of Mercy. This Solemnity of Divine Mercy was established as a universal celebration on the Eighth day of the Octave of Easter. On that day the floodgates of Mercy are opened and many souls are made holy.

The third way is through *the Chaplet of Divine Mercy*. The chaplet is a treasured gift. It's a gift that we should seek to pray each and every day.

The fourth way is by *honouring the hour of Jesus' death every day*. " It was at 3 o'clock that Jesus took His last breath and died upon the Cross. It was Friday. For this reason, Friday should always be seen as a special day to honour His Passion and ultimate Sacrifice. But since it took place at 3 o'clock, it is also important to honour that hour each and every day. This is the ideal time to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. If the Chaplet is not possible, it's at least important to pause and give thanks to our Lord every day at that time.

The fifth way is through *the Apostolic Movement of The Divine Mercy*. This movement is a call from our Lord to actively engage in the work of spreading His Divine Mercy. This is done by spreading the message and by living Mercy toward others.

On this, the Eighth Day of the Octave of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, ponder the above desires of the heart of Jesus. Do you believe that the message of Divine Mercy is meant not only for you but also for the whole world? Do you seek to understand and incorporate this message and devotion into your life? Do you seek to become an instrument of mercy to others? Become a disciple of The Divine Mercy and seek to spread this Mercy in the ways given to you by God.

My merciful Lord, I trust in You and in Your abundant Mercy! Help me, this day, to deepen my devotion to Your merciful heart and to open my soul to the treasures that pour forth from this font of Heavenly riches. May I trust You, Love You and become an instrument of You and Your mercy to the whole world. Jesus, I trust in You!

Today's Readings: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

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

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!

Communion Antiphon: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving, alleluia.

Next Week: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35