

# *The Little Flower Messenger*

**Year B – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

*Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux*

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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## **This Week's Good News**

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel provides us with an understanding of very human emotions, fear and doubt. We find the disciples, discouraged and afraid, hiding away in a locked room. They had seen their friend and teacher Jesus, betrayed, arrested, beaten and then put to death in the cruellest of fashions. They knew that they were now seen as the enemy and that the same people who had crucified Jesus were now looking for them as his followers. They stayed locked in the very same room in which just a few days earlier they had celebrated the last supper with Jesus.

John tells us that suddenly, Jesus appeared to them in their midst. What is the first thing he said to them? "Peace be with you." Jesus says this to them because God is standing with them in their sorrow, in other words, "God be with you."

He says this to them because he wants them to recognise this and to understand that to have God with you is to have peace. Jesus then shows them the wounds in his hands and his side. There is no doubt, if any had any remaining doubt, that this is indeed the risen Jesus standing amongst them.

The disciples go from a few minutes earlier being locked away in fear and sadness to being overjoyed and rejoicing. Jesus once again says, "Peace be with you" and then instructs the disciples about what their mission is to be. He tells them that as the Father had sent him, so he was now sending them and he breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

This is the Church, the very foundation of what the Church's mission is. To bring God's peace to everyone. We do this in how we live our lives, how we act towards others and ourselves. To imitate Jesus in all that we do individually and as a Church. Additionally, Jesus once again speaks of forgiveness. As humans, most of us struggle with this concept. We can say to someone, or they can say to us, "I am sorry for having done this or that." However, even when that has happened, do we truly forgive as God intends us to? Unconditional forgiveness - where we do not retain a grudge or dislike of someone because they have wronged us or said something with which we disagree. When we forgive, it must be as Jesus forgives, without rancour or given begrudgingly.

Another important aspect of today's Gospel is the figure of the disciple Thomas. When Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room, we are told that Thomas was not present. When he returns after this event, the other disciples rush to tell him what they have witnessed, "We have seen the Lord." Thomas, then says something that has become a catchphrase for his name, 'doubting Thomas'. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."



Please familiarise yourselves with the location of the fire exits, extinguishers, and assembly points at this church.

Jesus then appears again, and this time Thomas is present, and he tells Thomas to touch his wounds as he had said this was the pre-requisite of him believing. Jesus tells him to do this and to doubt no longer. It is then that Thomas understands and declares, "My Lord and My God."

Do we have difficulty believing unless we can see actual proof of what it is we are called to believe in? Jesus himself tells us, 'happy are those who have not seen yet believe.' Faith is exactly that. It is knowing that even though we were not present during Jesus' life on earth, or in the upper room with the rest of the disciples, we believe because Jesus is with us throughout our lives. And if we look closely enough, we will see God in everyday situations and people we meet, not just in the good times, but more so in the bad times.

Peace be with you, and always be with you.

Deacon Des

### **Making an Act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

### **Divine Mercy Sunday**

Today we celebrate with great joy Divine Mercy Sunday. Here are some interesting facts about today's great feast:

1. **What is Divine Mercy Sunday?** Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It is based on the private revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy.
2. **When was it made part of the Church's calendar?** In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and, during the ceremony, he declared:

It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday". In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings.

3. **What does the Church do to encourage the celebration of devotion to the Divine Mercy on this day?** Among other things, today's feast offers a plenary indulgence: To ensure that the faithful would observe this day with intense devotion, Saint John Paul II himself established that this Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence, so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbour, and after they have obtained God's pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters... a plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Francis) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!").



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4. **What is the Divine Mercy image?** The Divine Mercy image is a depiction of Jesus based on a vision that St. Faustina had in 1931. There have been a number of paintings made of this image. A basic explanation of the image is: Jesus is shown in most versions as raising his right hand in blessing and pointing with his left hand on his chest from which flow forth two rays: one red and one white (translucent). The depictions often contains the message “Jesus, I trust in You!” (Polish: *Jezu ufam Tobie*). The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus (which is the Life of Souls), and pale for the water (which justify souls) (from Diary - 299). The whole image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness and love of God, referred to as the "Fountain of Mercy".
5. **How is the Divine Mercy devotion linked to the Scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Easter?** The Divine Mercy image depicts Jesus at the moment he appears to the disciples in the Upper Room, after the Resurrection, when he empowers them to forgive or retain sins. This moment is recorded in John 20:19-31, which is the Gospel reading for this Sunday in all three yearly Sunday liturgical cycles (A, B, and C). This reading is placed on this day because it includes the appearance of Jesus to the Apostle Thomas (in which Jesus invites him to touch his wounds). This event occurred on the eighth day after the Resurrection (John 20:26), and so it is used in the liturgy eight days after Easter.

We will hold a Divine Mercy Service here at St. Theresa's at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021) and all are welcome to attend. Deacon Des will lead this service and Fr. Lee will be available to hear Confessions. Do please come along and join us.

## Parish News

**Gift Aid Envelopes 2021/2022:** Gift Aid envelopes for the current financial year are now available; should you wish to have them, please contact Clair in the office and she will arrange for them to be delivered to you. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated during these difficult times; we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. We cannot thank you enough. Should you have any questions about Gift Aid, or wish to become a contributor, please contact us via email [Stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:Stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or speak to Clair in the office.



**“Visions” Zoom Group:** Held every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom with the purpose of sharing scripture, promoting positive mental health, prayer, joy, and laughter, as well as pictures and art.

No commitment is asked, you can speak or just join and listen. The Zoom details are as follows:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226878791>
- Meeting ID: 822 2687 8791
- Passcode: visionst

**Sunday Coffee morning:** If you would like to socialise virtually then why not join us for a chat and a short fun quiz from the comfort of your own home? Held every Sunday at 11.10 a.m. via the following Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024819984> Meeting ID: 830 2481 9984 Password: CM24Thrsx. All are welcome.

**Parish Office Closure:** The parish office will re-open this Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup> April). Thank you.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Novena to the Divine Mercy: <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Divine Mercy Liturgy: <b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>For the intentions of Liam Baker (Fr L.Bennett)</b>  <b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Bill Blyth RIP (H. Bennett)</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April <i>St. Hermenegild</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>



**PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF IT RESPONSIBLY. THANK YOU.**



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