

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 24th April 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: John 20:19-31

'Eight days later, Jesus came.'

Mass book (P. 262)

1st Reading:

Acts 5:12-16

Psalms 117:2-4:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end

2nd Reading:

Apocalypse 1:9-13

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: (P. 265)

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30th of April 2000, at 10:00 AM, on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. [John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day – April 27 in 2014 – by Pope Francis.] At the canonization of St. Faustina, Saint John Paul II said, "Believing in the love of God means believing in His mercy."

Saint Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: 1. to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; 2. to tell the world about God's generous Mercy; 3. to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy. At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a painting of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!". The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness, and love of God. We have this picture in our own Church.



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

The readings for this Sunday are about God's mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith, and our need for the forgiveness of our sins. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat several times, "His mercy endures forever!" God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, in sending His only begotten Son to become our Saviour and Lord through His suffering, death, and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments (all instituted to sanctify us), especially that of Reconciliation.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, explains how the Risen Lord continued to show His Divine Mercy to the sick through the healing and preaching ministry of the apostles in the early Church. The Faith of the apostles enabled them to minister to the people, giving them the Lord's healing love in "signs and wonders." The second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation (given by Jesus to the Apostle John in exile on Patmos), was intended to comfort and bolster the Faith of persecuted Christians for all time. Today's selection assures us of the presence of the merciful Lord in our lives and encourages all of us to fight fear with Faith, and trepidation about the future with trust and Hope. Today's Gospel recalls Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins with the words, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:19-23). Presenting the doubting Thomas' famous profession of Faith, "My Lord and my God," the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed his mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith.

We need to accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy in our Christian lives: One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy. But it is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment.

Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each our loving service. The Fathers of the Church prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic faith of St. Thomas the Apostle: a) First, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. b) Next, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and community prayer. c) Third, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and receiving the Holy Eucharist. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: "If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action."

Deacon Des

Parish News

Caritas Anchor House Fundraising Musical Evening 7th May 2022: The Visions Group has connected with the Caritas Anchor House Organisation who help the homeless of Newham. Led by Deacon Des, the Visions Group are working to raise funds for the charity by hosting a Musical evening in the Parish Centre. You will be entertained by the Stansted U3A Singers and Stansted Mountfitchet U3A Strummers on Saturday 7th May 2022 at 7.00 p.m. Tickets cost £5 per person which will also include a free drink. Tickets will be on sale after Masses this Sunday (24th April) and Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May.

They have also set up a JustGiving Fundraising Page should you wish to make a direct donation. The details are as follows: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sainttheresastanstedanchorhouse>



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First Reconciliations and First Holy Communion: Thank you to the Parish for the continued prayers for our First Holy Communion children Alice, Arianna, Herbie, Isabella, Jessica, Jude, Marcus, Mikolaj, Molly, Noah, Olivia, Rebecca, Roman, Trinity and Zofia.

The children will make their First Reconciliations on Saturday 7th May so please remember them in your prayers. Final preparations are taking place for the First Holy Communion Mass which takes place on Sunday 15th May at 4:00 p.m.

They are well prepared, eager and excited. Please remember them in your prayers as we build towards May 15th and especially on the day, perhaps making a special prayer at 4:00 p.m. Pray that this will be the start of a long communion with God as they develop a deeper and abiding relationship with our Loving Father.

Thank you: We can confirm the final figure raised for our Ukraine Appeal Weekend held in March came to £3,275.75. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Gift Aid: Our thanks to those that have collected donation envelopes for the tax year just started. If you have not yet collected your envelope, please email Clair in the Parish Office.

If you pay tax on your income and would like to donate using envelopes, please email Angelo at stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details.

If you collected a Gift Aid form in the last few weeks, please complete and return them as soon as you're able, so that we can issue your envelopes.

If you are a Gift Aid donor and your circumstances have changed, such that you no longer wish to donate via the Gift Aid scheme, please let Angelo know (using the same email account above) so that we can reallocate your envelope.

During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.



Private Prayer: The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Baptism Course: Forthcoming dates are, 11th May, 15th June and 24th July; all on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course, please email the Parish Office stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Sacrament of Marriage: People who wish to be married in the Catholic Church must approach Fr. Lee / Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Visions Group: The Visions Group would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel for details.

Encounter meeting: 20th May in St Theresa's Parish Centre. All welcome to share faith & friendship in a convivial space, among those we have missed over the last 2 years. 9.30am Mass; Coffee & chat; prayer and readings on a Lenten theme. Shared lunch from 12.30. Enquiries: 652060/ 8169



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Mass Times and Intentions

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – YEAR C		
Saturday 23 rd April <i>Octave of Easter</i>	Divine Mercy Novena: 3:00 p.m. Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Peter Bennett R.I.P. (Dalzell & Bennett Families)
Sunday 24 th April	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish Jeanne & David Bambridge 60th Wedding Anniversary (J. Bambridge)
Monday 25 th April <i>St Mark</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 26 th April <i>St George</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Claire Mary (O. Salici)
Wednesday 27 th April	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 28 th April	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 29 th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Dennis Clarke R.I.P. (K. Clarke)
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C		
Saturday 30 th April	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 1 st May	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish



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



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