

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER A DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**SUNDAY OF THE DIVINE MERCY** In a series of revelations to St Maria 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 canonization of St Faustina on April 30, 2000. The Lord expressed his will with regard to this feast in his very first revelation to St Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation 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. Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second 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.

**THANK YOU** Fr Michael would like to thank the people of St Mary's and St Patrick's for their kindness and generosity in sending cards and gifts for Easter and for the traditional Easter offering which goes to your parish priest. It is very much appreciated. A big 'thank you' to you all.

**EASTERTIDE FAMILY MOVIE & EGG HUNT** Do join us on Sunday 16th April at 3pm in St Patrick's Parish Hall for a matinee showing of 'Veggie Tales: An Easter Carol' on the big screen. Inspired by Dickens' Christmas classic, this film explains why millions of Christians around the world celebrate Easter past, present and future. It runs for about 50mins

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration

4.20pm – 4.50pm Confessions

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Canon D. Millett*)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

with Holy Baptism

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April (Ch)

Weekday of Easter

\*12.10pm Mass\* (*Stephen Pocock*)

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April (Ch)

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Liturgy of the Word  
and Adoration

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April (Cor)

Memorial of Saint Alphege, Bishop,

Martyr 12noon Mass

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Ch)

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Liturgy of the Word  
and Adoration

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Weekday of Easter No Mass

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration

4.50pm Benediction

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

and will be followed by an Easter egg hunt in the grounds. All ages are welcome, bring the whole family along! Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

**SINGING THE MASS** We have resumed singing hymns at our Sung Masses by everyone. The most important parts of the Mass, the Kyries, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei together with the Psalm and the Acclamations will continue to be sung by all. We ask that you continue to wear a mask for the present as our Churches are very full and there is presently a rise in Covid numbers. We still have clinically extremely vulnerable people in our Church family. Thank you for your understanding.

**SERVERS AT ST MARY'S** Could you help please? We do need more altar servers at the 11am Mass at St Mary's. Women, men girls and boys (post-first communion) Please have a word with Fr Michael.

**FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE** If you would like to donate church flowers in memory of a loved one on their birthday or anniversary, then please get in touch with Teresa Gosling and she can put your date on the rota.

**OUR JOINT PARISH EVENINGS** will continue after Easter on **Thurs 20th April** in St Patrick's Hall at 7pm with **Finding True Freedom**. Do come and join us for the last two sessions during Eastertide.

**DBS FORMS** Please remember to bring in your forms and ID for checking this weekend after mass. Lynn Salter and Teresa Gosling will be in the office to process the paperwork. Many thanks.

**GOVERNORS FOR ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL** The school's governing body has vacancies for Foundation Governors. This provides the opportunity for new people to join the school's governing body, to help lead the school for future generations of Catholic, and other, children. Now is the time to step forward and apply to be a Foundation Governor. Please complete a nomination form <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/form-2> as soon as possible. For more details, please contact Bill McEntee, [bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com) or on 07710094976.

**HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK** If you are sick/housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion (or the Sacrament of the Sick) at home, please call or ask a member of your family to call Fr Michael or Teresa Gosling our Administrator and we will be very happy to arrange this.

**LGBTQ+ MASS** at 3pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April at St Nicholas of Tolentino R C Church in Bristol.

**HOW WE TALK ABOUT OUR FAITH** Clifton Diocese is offering a five week course in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a five-week course on how we talk about our Catholic Faith with other adults, young people and children. To sign up for the series, which starts on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, click on the following link: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/further-training-for-catechists-2023-04-20-19-30>

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**The Sick:** Corsham: Coleen Milne, Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Brian Tuersley, Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Anne Marie Naylor, Chris Rosario, James Carine, Michaela Finn, Eoin O Mahony, Alan Houghton, Elena Alberti. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**RIP Anniversaries:** Lil Stephens, Rosemary Donaldson, Jim Curran, Michael Vickers, Tony Witts, Eddie Porter, Tony Keeper.

**The Holy Father's Prayer April Intention:** We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Peter & St Paul, Bath

*In compliance with the requirements of GDPR permission must be sought from an individual (or next of kin) before their name can be added to a list of those who are sick. Do please advise us of any changes to be made to this list.*

## April – The Month of the Blessed Sacrament & the Holy Spirit



The month of April is dedicated both to devotion to the Eucharist and devotion to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, and when it does fall in March, the Easter season continues on through all of April. In essence, April is a month of Easter, and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which would come after Jesus's resurrection. This month we might commit ourselves to a period of Eucharistic adoration and pray a Holy Spirit prayer every day. There are periods of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parish. The goal is to be able to gaze lovingly and in awe at the Consecrated Host and share that love with others with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. "I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament," J.R.R. Tolkien

### Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

My Lord Jesus Christ, Your Eucharistic presence teaches me how to love as you have loved me. In your great love for me you continue to give yourself, body, blood, soul, and divinity in this sacrament of your love. As I pray in your Eucharistic presence, enkindle in me the fire of your gospel. Nourish me with your love and compassion, so that I may be sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit to be your living presence to all I meet. Amen.

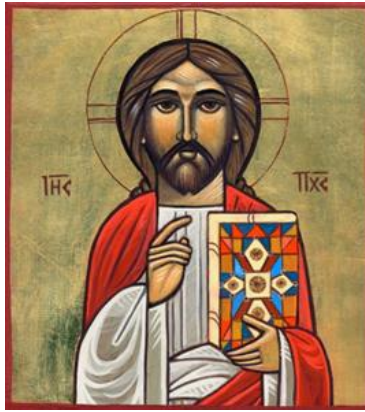
### A Prayer for Ukraine



Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.  
We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.  
We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.  
May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.

## THE WORD THIS WEEK

### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER A – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



#### **First reading**

Acts 2:42-47

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24

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

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

Let the sons of Israel say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let the sons of Aaron say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let those who fear the Lord say:

‘His love has no end.’

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,  
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.

## **Second reading**

1 Peter 1:3-9

*A reading from the first letter of St Peter*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God’s power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Jn20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: ‘You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

Alleluia!



## Gospel

John 20:19-31

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, 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. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and 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.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

