



St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE



April 16, 2023

The Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

“This is for me like the days of Noah: As I swore then that the waters of Noah, should never again flood the earth, So I have sworn now not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains fall away and the hills be shaken, My love shall never fall away from you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you.” (*Isaiah 54:9-10*)

READINGS

1st Reading **Acts 2:42-47**

2nd Reading **1 Pt 1:3-9**

Gospel **Jn 20:19-31**

Introduction: The readings for this Sunday show us our need for God's Divine Mercy, offered to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the forgiveness of our sins, and through each celebration of the Sacraments (all instituted to sanctify us), when we receive them in trusting Faith.

The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." In first section of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat three times, "*His mercy endures forever!*" God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, by sending His only begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord by His suffering, death and Resurrection.

Scripture lessons: The first reading (Acts 2:42-47) tells us how the early Church grew every day because of the acts of mercy -- sharing, sacrificial *agápe* love -- practiced by the early Christians. In the second reading (1 Pt 1:3-9), St. Peter glorifies God, the Father of Jesus Christ, for showing us His mercy by granting His Son Jesus Resurrection from the dead and a glorious Ascension into Heaven, thus giving us the assurance of our own resurrection. Today's Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The risen Lord gave his Apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, "*Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain, they 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 for everyone.

MERCY IS 'THE NAME OF GOD HIMSELF'

Pope Benedict XVI

"Mercy is in reality the core of the Gospel message; it is the name of God Himself, the face with which He reveals Himself in the Old Testament and fully in Jesus Christ, the Incarnation of creative and redemptive love." Thus, spoke Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy Sunday from the Apostolic Palace at Castel Gandolfo. Pope Benedict spoke about the significance of Divine Mercy Sunday. He also announced that he will preside over Mass in memory of John Paul II, who died three years ago on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday. The Mass this Wednesday will open the first-ever World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in Rome.

Pope Benedict XVI recalled that John Paul II designated the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, and did so on the day the Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalska, was canonized in 2000. Saint Faustina, who died in 1938, is known as the messenger of God's Mercy, since it was through her Diary that the message of mercy came to be known to the world, even before it was approved by the Holy See. Speaking to thousands of pilgrims at Castel Gondolfo and in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict said:

This love of mercy also illuminates the face of the Church, and is manifested through the sacraments, in particular that of reconciliation, as well as in works

of charity, both of community and individuals. Everything that the Church says and does, shows that God has mercy for man. When the Church must call attention to an unrecognized truth, or a good betrayed, it is always driven by merciful love that all people might have life and have it abundantly (cf. Jn 10.10). From Divine Mercy comes hearts that are pacified, and then comes true peace in the world, peace between peoples, cultures and religions.

Like Sister Faustina, Pope John Paul II was in his time an apostle of Divine Mercy. Many noticed the remarkable coincidence that when he closed his eyes to this world on the evening of Saturday, April 2, 2005, it was on the eve of the second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, and also at the same time as the Marian devotion of the first Saturday of the month. In fact, this was at the core of his long and multifaceted pontificate; his entire mission in the service of God and man and peace in the world was summarized in the announcement he made in Krakow in 2002.

Pope Benedict recalled the ceremony in Krakow, Poland, where John Paul II inaugurated the great Shrine of Divine Mercy and said: "'Outside the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for human beings.' His message, like St. Faustina's, leads back to the face of Christ, the supreme revelation of God's mercy. Constantly contemplating that face: This is the legacy that he has left us, which we welcome with joy and make our own," the Holy Father said.

At the end of his reflection, Pope Benedict urged the faithful to "place the congress under the heavenly protection of most holy Mary, Mother of Mercy. We entrust to her the great cause of peace in the world so that the mercy of God achieves what is impossible with human strength alone, and instills the courage for dialogue and reconciliation."

APRIL 8/9 COLLECTIONS & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Gift Aid collection	265
Loose cash	489.19
<u>Total</u>	<u>754.19</u>

(GOOD FRIDAY (7/4) 733.37)

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	Intentions
16/04/23	Parishioners, Pantasaph	Anna Brizzi RIP
17/04/23	Sosthenes Fernandes	Thanksgiving
18/04/23	Antonio Machado & family	Thanksgiving
19/04/23	Maureen Aherne	Yvonne Aherne, Birthday
20/04/23	Bridget	For the Family
21/04/23	Terry	Healing of the Family

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

ANNIVERSARIES (April-15-21)

Fr. Gerald Catterall '79: Patricia Mary Goldstraw, Joan Neal, '09., John Maguire: Fr. Bric '78: Canon Eveans '82:, Michael Kohane: Kathleen Wright: Glenys Owen Bagley, 2020, Jane Morley: Fr. James Swarbrick '81: Dorothy Slattery:, John Waterhouse:, Ida Gonsalves McFadden '90: Delwyn Roberts, '11.

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>
Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com
Phone: 01352 711053, **0741-749-4277**
Registered Charity No. 70042