



27 April 2025 - Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter) - Year C

Holy Masses

Saturday Vigil5pm Hanmer Springs
(Every Saturday)7pm Culverden
(Every Saturdays)Sunday Mass8.30am Amberley
(Every Sunday)11am Cheviot
(1st & 3rd Sundays Only)10.30am Hawarden
(2nd & 4th Sunday Only)12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield
(Every Sunday)Weekday MassesMonday - Friday
8:30am AmberleyTuesday - Saturday
12pm The Beatitudes,
Leithfield

Adoration & Reconciliation

1st Friday of the month
from 7:30amConfession by Appointment
or before Mass

Rosary

Wednesday 1:30pm
Amberley Church Hall

Kalavale

Parish's cup of tea & raffles
1st Sunday of the Month.**St Joseph Men's Group**
2nd & 4th Monday 7pm-9pm
Amberley Hall

Appearance to the Disciples

In today's Gospel (John 20, 17-31), we are told that it was the presence of the Risen Lord at Easter that made the difference in the disciples' lives. It was His appearance and assurance that removed the disciples' initial fears and doubts, and empowered them to become courageous witnesses. In our darkest moments let the Lord's presence be our greatest support, and let His assuring greeting "Peace be with you," be our greatest comfort.

We all have fears. We all have insecurities deep inside, around, and even between and among us! It is the presence of the Lord that can dispel our fears. There are situations and moments where no amount of human assurance, and no amount of human efforts can unlock the prisons that cripple us, and the darkness that envelops us.

After Jesus died, the disciples were at the lowest and darkest moment of their lives. They were burdened by the heaviest negative emotions imaginable. You name it, they got it: Fear, despair, guilt, remorse, shame and sadness. They were like sheep that were scattered, lost and scared. They hit the rock-bottom of their existence. But, as their experience showed, their Master was with them in their darkest hour, and He was with them in their lowest hell.

"Be still, and know that I am God." For those who have gone through, and are going through a dark night of the soul, or a nightmare in broad daylight, let this assurance from God be a source of consolation, hope and strength. In our utter helplessness and hopelessness, let us go back to God's heart and, there, find peace. Human remedies may come in handy, but in our darkest and lowest moments, we have no one but God.

Those who have never experienced brokenness, who have this world at their beck and call, cannot understand nor can they experience the reality of a merciful, loving God. During good times, God is there; but it is during bad times that God is especially there for us. It is at such moments that God becomes very, very real.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Our hope to see the Lord face to face someday is based not so much on our merits as on God's love and mercy. The way to God's heart is humility. The proud and the self-righteous don't see that way, and don't see it that way. None of us deserve God's love. The best prayer is: "Have mercy on me, oh Lord, a sinner...!" Only in humility can we know and appreciate God's mercy.

Lord, it is your presence and your words of life that can lift us up and give us light. Amen.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

FIRST READING: Acts 5:12-16The numbers of men and women
who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily**Psalms 117(118):2-4,22-27***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love is everlasting.***SECOND READING: Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19**

I was dead, and now I am to live for ever and ever

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among

HYMNS for SUNDAY MASSES

(May vary on the day)

- 267 Christ is risen today
286 This Joyful Eastertide
287 Thine be the Glory
282 Sing to the mountain

What is the meaning of Mercy?

In its simplest form, mercy is compassion or forgiveness. The person in need may have brought it upon themselves, by sin, or human failures of one kind or another, but to be merciful is not to leave them in that state, as this is how God treats us if we turn to Him in our need.

What does Divine Mercy mean?

Divine Mercy is the reaching down of God out of Love, through the Incarnation and Pascal Mystery, in order to restore us to Himself.

What are the Promises of Divine Mercy?

Here are a few of the promises regarding Jesus' Divine Mercy:

"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image (of Divine Mercy) will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory."

(Diary, 48)

"Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." (Diary, 687)

"The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death." (Diary, 754)

"When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son." (Diary, 811)

"Souls who spread the honor of My mercy... at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior." (Diary, 1075)

"To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (Diary, 1521)

Who is the great Apostle of Divine Mercy?

Also known as the Secretary of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska was a Polish nun with the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She began to have visions of Jesus in 1931, writing them down in her spiritual journal, now titled *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, and often referred to simply as Diary. From this beginning the apostolate and devotion of Divine Mercy began

From the workshop- words on St Joseph- Fr Calloway's book Page 282

St Joseph's influence is a wonderful reflection of Divine Wisdom which reacheth from end to end mightily, and ordereth all things sweetly (Wis 8:1). He has been clothed and will remain clothed in the divine splendour. Grace has become fruitful in him and he will share its fruit with all who strive to attain to the life which is "hid with Christ in God" (Col 3:3)

NOTICES

ADULTS CATECHESIS BEGINS!

Beginning May 1st (first week of school term) Thursday Evenings, Dr. Robert Loretz (PhD in philosophy) will be teaching the Symbolon program, a series of video talks from the Augustine Institute. It will be held at Hawarden Parish Center, and will run for 10 weeks. Don't miss

MASS with BISHOP MICHAEL GIELEN

On Sunday the 4th May 2025, Bishop Michael will celebrate the 8:30am Holy Mass in Amberley.

