



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 19th April 2020

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Psalter Week 2

Let Us Be Instruments of God's Mercy

Today, the Sunday after Easter is traditionally called 'Low Sunday' but now it is more commonly known as 'Divine Mercy Sunday'. This Feast of Mercy was instituted by Pope St John Paul II twenty years ago. Our Lord Himself appeared to St Faustina, a Polish nun in the 1930s, and told her to fill her Diary with the message of His mercy. Of course, this message was nothing new - the Church has been preaching it for two thousand years. God has mercy on sinners, and this mercy is available in abundance. As I've highlighted in previous years, an important paragraph in St Faustina's diary reads:

*"On that day [the Feast of Mercy] 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 all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.**"* (Diary of St Faustina, # 699).

What a promise! But people have been asking how do we do this when all the churches are closed? As I've mentioned before, if you make an **Act of Perfect Contrition**, detesting your sins out of love of God and resolve not to sin again and having the intention to receive the Sacrament as soon as possible, you will be forgiven all your sins – even mortal sins. Then you make a **Spiritual Communion**, asking God to come into your heart and receive the graces as if you were actually receiving Him. And if we do this successfully, our souls will be as clean as they were on the day of Baptism! We all want to wipe the slate clean, so do tell people about it because this Feast is for everyone.

And it goes without saying we too should perform acts of mercy. As you know there are the **Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy**. It's inspiring in this crisis to see so many in the Parish looking out for each other, whether it's doing shopping for someone, cooking for them, helping to feed them etc. But we're limited to what we can do due to 'social distancing'. If you are not able to do these types of things because you are unable to go out, there are **the Spiritual Works of Mercy**. We can phone or text people to see if they are okay. Some may have lost someone close to them. We can help comfort them in their grief. Many will be feeling anxious and so we can help reassure them. Families are spending a lot more time together these days, so it might be necessary to develop the virtues of patience and prudence so that we can bear wrongs more patiently. Pray for that gift.

(Cont'd on next page)

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	18 th	6.00pm	Intention for the living
Sun	19 th	<u>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY</u>	
		9.00am	Kathleen & Amelia Blake RIP
		11.00am	For the Parish
Mon	20 th	9.15am	Terence John Monaghan RIP
Tues	21 st	9.15am	Deceased members of the Brady & Lambert families
Weds	22 nd	9.15am	Brian & Richard Smith RIP
Thurs	23 rd	9.15am	Rosemary & Stanley Ball RIP
Fri	24 th	9.15am	Bishops & Priests of the Church
Sat	25 th	9.15am	Gladys & Wilfrid Orton RIP
		6.00pm	Terence John Monaghan RIP
Sun	26 th	<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		11.00am	Peter Foster Boswell RIP

MASS INTENTIONS: Although the times of Masses have been left on the weekly calendar, the priests will not necessarily offer Mass at those specific times, but the Masses will all be celebrated for the particular intentions on the days advertised.

NB: Due to government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions for the deceased in the printed edition of the newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Fr Joseph McGovern, Kevin Chapman and Maria Carecci. **May they rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Walsh, Daniel O'Connell, Jack Brady, Edward Connell, Peter Cawley, Domenico Di-Nero, Tony Sparano, Jeff Field, Robert Misiura and Joan Brain

(Cont'd from previous page)

Then there is praying for the living and the dead. There are a lot of people to pray for in this crisis. We pray for all the doctors, nurses and care home workers who are doing so much and risking their own lives, and for all the sick they are looking after. Many of our teachers are still working. And we pray for all those who have died, and their relatives, many of whom haven't been able to be with a loved one in their final moments. Let us pray on this great feast that each of us will in some way be able to be an instrument of God's mercy in these times.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

CORONAVIRUS AND STAYING CONNECTED: During this difficult period, we will be keeping in touch with you and informing you of anything we think might be of help to you in two ways:

1. **The Parish website – www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk.** Here you can sign up to receive the newsletter by email every week and access the Sunday Mass readings and prayers. The home page will keep you updated with links to News posts and other helpful information.
2. **A private Facebook support group (St Mary’s Community Support)** that you can join and through which you can interact with other parishioners and offer each other support. To join the group you will need to have a Facebook account. A link to the group is available on the Parish website.

SUPPORT FOR ST MARY’S: While the church remains closed, I would like to ask parishioners who have previously supported St Mary’s through the weekly offertory, to consider setting up a monthly standing order to St Mary’s. If you would like to do this, please email office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk and ask for the Parish account details to be sent to you. Alternatively, donations can be made (through PayPal) from the ‘Donate’ page on the parish website or by cheque made out to St Mary’s RCP. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

GIFT AIDED DONATIONS: **Have you recently set up a standing order online to send regular payments to St Mary’s?** If so, and you would like to Gift Aid your donations, please download and complete the Gift Aid declaration form available on the parish website (Home page updates or click on ‘Donate to St Mary’s’ under the ‘Fundraising’ tab). Please return your completed form to Geoff Mercer.

SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE: Charnwood Council are working with John Storer Charnwood and have set up ‘**Charnwood Community Action**’ as an umbrella organisation to ensure there is a coordinated approach to supporting the most vulnerable in our communities during the Coronavirus crisis. For information about how you can help and get help for yourself or someone else, visit www.johnstorercharnwood.org.uk. To make direct contact, email enquiries@johnstorercharnwood.org.uk. If you really need to speak to someone, call 01509 631750 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-5.30pm).

THROUGH ST MARY’S FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUP parishioners have identified a family that needs help as both parents have Coronavirus – one of the benefits of an online community. Please email office@stmarysloughborough.org.uk if you hear of anyone else in need.

FROM THE SAINTS: “All grace flows from mercy, and the last hour abounds with mercy for us. Let no one doubt concerning the goodness of God; even if a person’s sins were as dark as night, God’s mercy is stronger than our misery. One thing alone is necessary; that the sinner set ajar the door of his heart, be it ever so little, to let in a ray of God’s merciful grace, and then God will do the rest” (*St Faustina Kowalska, 1905-1938, Diary # 1507*).

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY AGAINST DISEASE

Priest: The Star of Heaven that nourished the Lord drove away the plague of death which the first parents of man brought into the world. That very Star is now worthy to encompass the world, whose wars cut down the people with the sore of dreaded death.

All: O glorious Star of the Sea, preserve us from pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honours Thee by denying Thee nothing. Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee.

DIVINE MERCY IMAGE FOR PROTECTION: It has been suggested in some Catholic circles that we put the image of the Divine Mercy on our front doors to ask God's protection in these times. In the Divine Mercy image we have blood and water gushing forth from the Heart of JESUS which symbolises His great mercy on the world. It's not a guarantee we won't get the virus but doing so would be a great act of faith, and by trusting in Him we will obtain His mercy. JESUS told St Faustina that "*By means of this image, I shall be granting many graces to souls, so let every soul have access to it.*" You can download the image from the parish website.

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION is an earnest desire to receive Holy Communion when you are unable to. St Padre Pio, even though he celebrated Mass every day also had the habit of making a spiritual communion a number of times throughout the day. Here is a form used by him and many other saints: **My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

**PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE PARISH WEBSITE DURING THE WEEK
FOR UPDATES FROM ST MARY'S
www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk**