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St Mary Magdalene's Church

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PARISH MOTTO - 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

7th of April 2024

Welcome to Saint Mary Magdalene — we are happy to have you join us today to celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter.

This week's Gospel presents us with Doubting Thomas. There is a type of doubt that is difficult to deal with. That is the doubt that enters our lives when things go wrong, very wrong. It is one thing to be a person of faith when all is wonderful in our lives. It is another thing to have faith when a loved one gets sick or dies, or when we are afflicted with a serious illness, or when our life plans are destroyed by the malicious actions of another, perhaps a former spouse.

It was easy for the Disciple Thomas to believe in Jesus when he experience his healing, and when the words of the Lord burned within his own heart. It was difficult for Thomas to believe when his own world appeared to fall apart on Good Friday. Thomas doubted the Resurrection because he could not get pass the crucifixion. It is often the same with us. We are so torn up by many crises in our lives, that sometimes we cannot get pass those crises to an experience of the new life of Christ that is offered on Easter.

We can be so torn up by the physical events of our lives that we close the door to the possibility of the spiritual. That is essentially what Thomas did. That is what we tend to do. It is a normal human reaction to suffering. It really does not mean that we do not believe in God. We are not even questioning his good-

For today's Mass

Responsorial Psalm

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

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus said:

'You believe because you can see me.

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



ness, even when we shake our fist at heaven and shout, "How could you?" We just are being held back by the pain of physical life from recognizing the joy of the spiritual life.

Many people persecute themselves for having these thoughts and wonder if God will forgive them. When you love someone, you are more concerned about their pain then you are about the way they express their pain. God loves us too much to be concerned with anything other than our pain. At the same time, he tells us to give him our pain and take a step out of physical suffering and a step into spiritual joy. That is really what Easter is about. Easter is all about entering into the spiritual. Easter is about the conquest of the physical by the spiritual.

Easter is about life conquering death, love conquering hate, Jesus rising from a tomb, and us taking a step out of the physical and into the spiritual. Doubting is part of the human condition. It will exist in all our lives to some extent or other until the time that we see our God face to face. At that time the whole concept of doubt will be pointless. But until then, we recognize our humanity and we humbly ask God to admit us as we are, human beings with human limitations, into his divinity.

Faith is the one gift that God promises will be given to all who seek it. But even if we were to have the faith of a saint, we would still have doubts. Joe Corbett, a very wise man I

knew who passed away in 2011, once told me something that I have treasured throughout my life. One of his adult sons told him that he wished he had the faith his father had and went to daily Mass like his dad did. Joe answered, "I don't go to daily Mass because I have great faith, I go to Mass because I need faith." Those words have always stuck with me. When Doubting Thomas made his act of faith, Jesus responded, "You believe because you have seen. Blessed are those who have not seen but believe."

Jesus was talking about us. He was calling us blessed because we have often taken a leap of faith and left the limitations of the physical for the infinite gifts of the spiritual. Remember Thomas had an experience of the Resurrected Jesus. We only have an experience of an empty tomb. We have not seen, but we believe. The doubts that we suffer at various times of our lives, are not all that bad after all. The experience of doubt can lead us to take a more determined step into faith. No, not a step, a leap, a leap into the arms of the Lord who loves us with all our human limitations. Maybe that is why Pope St. John Paul II declared that the Sunday that we reflect on doubts and faith should also be the Sunday that we recognize the overwhelming Divine Mercy of the Lord.

Have a great week—Stay safe and well and enjoy the gifts and blessings God has given us. May God bless you always.

Fr Bogdan SDS

PRAYERS

We pray for the repose of the soul of Edwin Carlin and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

**Eternal rest grant unto their souls,
O Lord. May they rest in peace.
Amen.**

Thank You!!!

We thank you for your spectacular generosity. Your generous support of our Parish and your help with the needs of our community is greatly appreciated!

Collections

Easter Sunday: 31st March 2024 – £1715.50.

Good Friday (Holy Land) – £369.00.

Priest's Musing

A policeman from a K9 unit, had parked his car so he could go inside the station for a moment, and when he came out there was a little boy standing at his car. "Whatcha' doing here son?" The little boy turned and said, "I thought I heard barking from the backseat of your car." The policemen laughed and responded, "Well you did. There's a dog there." The little boy scratched his head. "Really? What did he do?"

SAINTS DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 8th April

Solemnity of the
Annunciation Of Our Lord

Tuesday 9th April

Second Week in Eastertide

Wednesday 10th April

Second Week in Eastertide

Thursday 11th April

Memorial of St Stanislaus

Friday 12th April

Second Week in Eastertide

Saturday 6th April

Second Week in Eastertide

The Divine Mercy

On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. 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 forth 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. (Diary of Divine Mercy #699)

This message, spoken by Jesus to Saint Faustina in 1931, has now come true. What was spoken in the solitude of a cloistered convent in Plock, Poland, now is celebrated by the Universal Church throughout the whole world!

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament was known to very few people during her lifetime. But through her, God has spoken the message of His abundant mercy to the entire Church and world. What is this message? Though its content is endless and unfathomable, here are five key ways that Jesus desires this new devotion to be lived: The first way is through meditation on the sacred image of The Divine Mercy.

Saint Faustina was asked by Jesus to have an image of His merciful love painted for all to see. It's an image of Jesus with two rays shining forth from His Heart. The first ray is blue, indicating the font of Mercy coming forth through Baptism; and the second ray is red, indicating the font of Mercy poured forth through the Blood of the Holy Eucharist.

The second way is through the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus told Saint Faustina that He desired an annual solemn Feast of Mercy. This Solemnity of Divine Mercy was established as a universal celebration on the Eighth day of the Octave of Easter.

On that day the floodgates of Mercy are opened and many souls are made holy. The

third way is through the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. The chaplet is a treasured gift. It's a gift that we should seek to pray each and every day.

The fourth way is by honouring the hour of Jesus' death every day. It was at 3 o'clock that Jesus took His last breath and died upon the Cross. It was Friday. For this reason, Friday should always be seen as a special day to honour His Passion and ultimate Sacrifice. But since it took place at 3 o'clock, it is also important to honor that hour each and every day. This is the ideal time to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

If the Chaplet is not possible, it's at least important to pause and give thanks to our Lord every day at that time. The fifth way is through the Apostolic Movement of The Divine Mercy. This movement is a call from our Lord to actively engage in the work of spreading His Divine Mercy. This is done by spreading the message and by living Mercy toward others.

On this, the Eighth Day of the Octave of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, ponder the above desires of the heart of Jesus. Do you believe that the message of Divine Mercy is meant not only for you but also for the whole world? Do you seek to understand and incorporate this message and devotion into your life? Do you seek to become an instrument of mercy to others? Become a disciple of The Divine Mercy and seek to spread this Mercy in the ways given to you by God.

Fr Bogdan

**Fr Bogdan and
Deacon Krzysztof
wish you all a
Happy and Holy Easter!**

ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN HOSPITAL? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN HOSPITAL?

Name _____ Hospital _____ Ward _____

Please complete/ tear off and hand it to Fr Bogdan after Mass