

The Feast of Divine Mercy - Sunday 28 April 2019



Jesus told St. Faustina that the Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when **“all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened”**. (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday.

Jesus promised that **“The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.”**(Diary 699) He went on to say **“I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy.”** (Diary St Faustina 1109)

Our Lord said **“When you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul...”** and **“Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy”** (1602) **Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is... only a screen. Never analyse what sort of a priest that I am making use of; open your soul in confession to Me, and I will fill it with My light.”** (Diary 1725)

On Sunday 28 April we celebrated this feast day with its awesome promises here at The Good Shepherd Church. Father Joseph Prusacyk presided over the service which consisted of songs of praise, Gospel reading and homily, prayers for the dying, for the Holy Souls and for priests, adoration of The Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and Confession.

Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Today, we continue to rely on St. Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy and to live mercifully towards others. First and foremost, St Faustina's prayer life was grounded in reverent and frequent reception of the Sacraments, especially attendance at daily Mass, going to confession regularly, and spending time adoring Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. As much as our circumstances and responsibilities permit, we are asked to follow her example as the foundation of our prayer life. The Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are the great Sacraments of Mercy, bringing us the Lord's healing presence, superabundant graces, and forgiveness. Jesus also asked that we show mercy to others through words, deeds and prayer.

A beautiful example of being merciful by forgiving comes out in an incident between two women at a bookshop. The owner came into the bookshop one day, and started directing the work of the manager, and this with her usual gusto. The manager started to fume inside while trying to keep her cool on the outside. Afterwards, she went to her parish priest and vented her feelings about the interference in her work. After she had vented her anger for a while, Father interrupted with the question, "Was the owner right or wrong?"

"She was wrong!" retorted the woman with no uncertainty in her voice.

"Wonderful," Father responded, "now you are in the perfect situation to be a Christian and forgive her!"

Father Joseph's tremendous missionary work in Kibeho, Rwanda is a powerful example of mercy toward impoverished, needy children and families. Rwanda, a poor nation still reeling from a genocide of nearly a million people in 1994, is now a country undergoing a rebirth in large part due to the apparitions in Kibeho of "Our Lady of The Word" which took place in 1981-1989. The Marian apparitions have transformed Kibeho into the "Lourdes of Africa". Today, Fr Joseph is feeding families, building a school and constructing a centre of pilgrimage and reconciliation for families who have witnessed the most terrible atrocities and for whom forgiveness and mercy is a very complex issue. In our times, more than ever, we need Our Lady along with the Divine Mercy message to change the world. Let us pray for the healing of families in Rwanda, for a future where the breakdown of the family is repaired, where evil is eliminated and unity, peace and love reign in our world.

“Jesus, I trust in You”