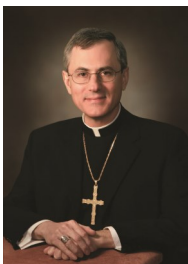


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**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
(DIVINE MERCY)  
April 19, 2020**



Most Rev.  
Ronald Peter Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

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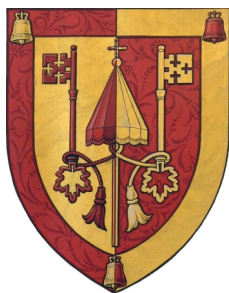
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## Divine Mercy—The Gift of Christ's Love

"Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus, quoniam in saeculum misericordia eius"; "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever" (Ps 118: 1). So the Church sings on the Octave of Easter, as if receiving from Christ's lips these words of the Psalm; from the lips of the risen Christ, who bears the great message of divine mercy and entrusts its ministry to the Apostles in the Upper Room.

Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ. Christ pours out this mercy on humanity through the sending of the Spirit who, in the Trinity, is the Person-Love. And is not mercy love's "second name" (cf. Dives in misericordia, n. 7), understood in its deepest and most tender aspect, in its ability to take upon itself the burden of any need and, especially, in its immense capacity for forgiveness?

Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr Faustina Kowalska to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time. By divine Providence, she was completely linked with the history of the 20th century, the century we have just left behind. Jesus told Sr Faustina: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy" (Diary, p. 132). Through the work of the Polish religious, this message has become linked for ever to the 20th century, the last of the second millennium and the bridge to the third. It is not a new message but can be considered a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time.

What will the years ahead bring us? What will man's future on earth be like? We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences. But the light of divine mercy, which the Lord in a way wished to return to the world through Sr Faustina's charism, will illumine the way for the men and women of the third millennium.

In the various readings today, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings. Christ has taught us that "man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called 'to practise mercy' towards others.

Sr Faustina's canonization has a particular eloquence: by this act I intend today to pass this message on to the new millennium. I pass it on to all people, so that they will learn to know ever better the true face of God and the true face of their brethren. In fact, love of God and love of one's brothers and sisters are inseparable. Mercy gave form to human relations and community life; it constituted the basis for the sharing of goods. Here mercy became a concrete way of being "neighbour" to one's neediest brothers and sisters.

It is this love which must inspire humanity today, if it is to face the crisis of the meaning of life, the challenges of the most diverse needs and, especially, the duty to defend the dignity of every human person. Thus the message of divine mercy is also implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one; to everyone the Father gives his Spirit and offers intimacy."

*Excerpt from the homily of Pope John Paul II, Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska, April 30, 2000*

For the complete text of the Pope's homily, please click [here](#).

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2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.



## Doubting or Believing Thomas?

“As these challenging and uncertain days continue, in today’s gospel we meet the apostle who is forever known as ‘Doubting Thomas.’ After all their hopes and plans had been dashed, the apostles are hiding in case the Romans find them and do to them what they did to Jesus. They are afraid, anxious, worried and doing all they can to protect and save themselves; perhaps like so many around the world today because of the Coronavirus. Perhaps now more than ever we have sense of what they were experiencing. All they had hoped and believed in had been taken from them. All seemed lost and hopeless.

And so, what seems to be out of nowhere, Jesus appears and causally says, ‘Peace be with you.’



Jesus stands with them and offers them his peace at their time of greatest need. To prove beyond all doubt that it is him, Jesus shows them the signs of his sufferings; his hands and his side. Clearly they needed concrete proof and evidence to convince them! Then Jesus commissions them with carrying on his ministry and mission. However, one of the group is missing; Thomas. When

he returns, the others tell him that Lord had appeared to them and had spoken to them. However, just like them earlier, he not convinced and he too needs some real proof and evidence before he believes what they have told him. He wants to see Jesus with his own eyes!

To read more click [here](#).

### ‘Isolation’ Retreat

It has now been over a month since we have been unable to gather as a community. Our lifestyle has drastically changed as we have had to slowly remove ourselves from our workplaces, refrain from travelling to visit family, and our regular daily activities have been altered as individuals and families. We have all had to engage in a type of ‘isolation’ in some manner for the sake of ourselves and for others.

The Irish Jesuits website Sacred Space has created an ‘Isolation Retreat’. This 14 day experience explores themes that can help us face our fears and loneliness during this time, then moving us to transformation, hope, and joy. You are invited to take this 14 day retreat; share it with your family and friends knowing that though you may feel isolated, you are never isolated from the love of God which flows abundantly now and always.

Click [here](#) to begin the retreat.

### Celebrating the Easter Season at Home

Easter is not just one day. The Church gives us the gift of 50 days to celebrate the Easter event—the Risen Christ in our midst! How do we want to keep the Easter Season alive for us in our homes? A new resource, *Celebrating*



*the Easter Season at Home*, provides a wonderful way to explore the season for individuals, children, married couples, and families.

Click [here](#) to access this resource.

***Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia!***



## *From the Desk of the Rector*

**Helping Hands that Reach Out.** The needs of Londoners continue in many ways and our parishioners are always there to assist. The Knights of Columbus forwarded a financial donation to London Food Bank – helping a caring community share its food resources. The Catholic Women's League offered food and supplies to St. Paul's Social Services Food Bank and Fellowship Centre. As well they reached out to St. Joseph Hospitality Centre. Life on the street for many has grown more difficult. There is nowhere to go and nothing to do especially these days. However, as one homeless person who appreciates the assistance available put it "Everybody's going through it. We are the ones who are always going to survive this stuff. We're the ones who make it through no matter what because we simply have to." I hope he's right. We can help.

**Now What?** We travelled through Holy Week in a way we've never experienced before. I believe we were more in tune with the sense of it all due to our current circumstances. That is very good and what we each heard and learned will carry us into the coming months. Pope Francis cautioned us "Holy Week is not so much a time of sorrow, but rather a time to enter into Christ's way of thinking and acting. It is a time of grace given us by the Lord so that we can move beyond a dull or mechanical way of living our faith, and instead open the doors of our hearts." Easter Sunday is what our faith and living it is all about. In pain as well as hope we have a chance to let Jesus form us into his disciples. Look at Mary as she ran to the tomb early in the morning. What's recorded in Scripture tells us she experienced hope, grief and joy. Are we being transformed in that way as well? When we let our hearts and minds be changed we definitely are experiencing the resurrection of Jesus in our lives. During the 50 days of the Easter season until Pentecost we are invited to grow and understand where we can change. Ways to do this include praying with others in our home or through electronic connections, setting a regular time

for private prayer and meditation, thinking reflectively about the readings from Sunday and weekday Mass. There are many ways to do this. If you're looking for support or ideas don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other members of the pastoral team. If we use these days well we have the chance of it being a transforming event in our life.

**Difficult Times for Many.** I know I am not alone, saddened as I hear of numerous people I know who have died recently. Like many other family members and friends I would have just naturally attended their visitation and funeral because that's what we do when death occurs. Of course it is impossible in the current situation and we will eventually gather and that is good. However, it's not the same and people need to know their grief and hope in the gift of eternal life is shared – now. So, if you hear of someone experiencing the loss of a loved one, by all means, keep alert for the notice of gathering taking place but pick up the phone, send an email, letter or card now. It will be appreciated. Loss gets compounded when we cannot come together but when shared brings comfort and hope.

**Managing Our Time.** There are many strategies to help us cope with self-isolation as we do our part to bring an end to the pandemic. Be informed but pay attention to the facts. Look for clear data and don't get lost in the commentary and speculation. Social media at this time can be a gift but don't get overexposed. Stay connected with family and friends. Plan it. Make a list. Pay more attention to your emails and phone calls. Don't be afraid to reach out. Maintain a structure and regular routine. Get moving with some exercise. Make time for prayer. Be gentle with yourself. Some days will be good. Some will be challenging. Try to view the bigger picture. Keep things in perspective. There's a reason why we're going through this and God is present with us.

Be safe. Be well. Be kind.

*Fr. Jim Mockler*

***We remember in prayer*** all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton. We also pray for those who have died, including Suzanne Clifford, wife of Bill; Gail Stapleton, wife of Ken; Ian Pilot; Laura Reilly, Director of Lay Ecclesial Ministry-Diocese of London; and comfort for those who mourn.

***We pray for those serving in pastoral ministry throughout our diocese:***

Rev. Leo Walsh, C.S.B.; Rev. Leonard Desjardins;  
Deacon Leonard Hughes; Rev. David Furlonger, C.Ss.R.;  
Rev. David Butler; Juan Carlos Giraldo,  
Sacramental Coordinator

## **READINGS - SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2020**

### **First Reading - Acts 2.14, 22b-28**

*It was impossible for Christ to be held in the power of death.*

**Psalms - Ps 16.1-2+5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (R. 11)**

*R. Lord, you will show me the path of life.*

### **Second Reading - 1 Peter 1.17-21**

*You were ransomed by the precious blood of Christ, the Lamb without defect or blemish.*

### **Gospel - Luke 24.13-35**

*The disciples recognized the Lord when he broke bread with them.*

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