



# The Blessed Sacrament Chelmsford News



The Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Today's Readings

### First Reading

**Acts 2:42-47**

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

### **Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24**

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

Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.'

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,  
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.

### Second Reading

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### **Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe"

#### **Alleluia!**

### Gospel

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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## Reflection

As a child, I watched Mary Poppins so many times I suffered from a condition with my sight. It was called 'umdiddle-iddle-iddle-umdiddle Eye'.

In today's Gospel, Thomas refuses to believe *his* own eyes. John tells us that the risen Lord appeared among the Apostles in a room with closed doors. Bringing, giving and leaving peace and the Holy Spirit; and the power to forgive or retain sins – the power of God himself - the reason why Jesus was CRUCIFIED.

Jesus gives them his authority by his *own* authority, and this is passed on down through the ages to Bishops and priests in our day, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many of those sick and dying because of the Coronavirus have received anointing with holy oil, breathed on by Bishops, with that same Holy Spirit that Jesus breathed on the Apostles.

John then tells us that Thomas was not with the other Apostles when Jesus came. When they told Thomas they had seen the risen Lord, he answered, "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe".

After another eight days, Jesus came again and stood among them with doors locked, and this time Thomas *was* with them.

Jesus said to him "Give me your hand; put it into my side". Thomas replied, "My Lord and My God" (words we say silently at the elevation in the mass). He then believed. He had wanted proof, much like the world today demands before it too will believe.

Jesus then said to Thomas, "You believe because you can see me. Happy (or Blessed) are those who have not seen and yet believe".

This is Jesus' message to the world now.

Furthermore, we note that Jesus still carries his wounds *after* the resurrection.

The resurrection is the real "centre" of history – the story of all creation - ourselves, the earth, the cosmos and all within them. We see the past, the present and the future. In his wounds and suffering we are saved and are offered eternal life *if we believe in Him*.

He took on our nature - the Divine "putting on" humanity to "deceive" the Devil and bring death to death itself. Jesus' wounds are the wounds of the whole of creation throughout all time - our wounds in the present and the wounds of the future.

He knows our suffering and our death but has beaten it; and in his glorious ascension into heaven, he leads his followers to eternal life in God's Kingdom where suffering and death are no more. Happy are those who believe.

JESUS IS LORD FOREVER. HE IS RISEN ALLELUIA!

God Bless you all.  
Fr Paul.

## Notices

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of William Snowden who sadly died this week. Please remember his family at this sad time. May he rest in peace. Amen.

### OUR NEW PASCHAL CANDLE



**Paschal Candle**

The Paschal candle represents **Jesus Christ**, the Light of the World.

Made of **pure beeswax**, it represents the **sinless Christ** who incarnated in the womb of His Mother.

The priest inscribes in the candle a **Cross**, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, **(1) Alpha** and **(2) Omega** 'the beginning and the end') and the current year.

**Five grains of incense** inserted into it in the form of a cross, recalling the **aromatic spices** used to anoint Our Lord's Body, and the **five wounds** in His hands, feet, and side.

Catholic Fortress

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**JOIN MONSIGNOR JOHN ARMITAGE FOR A RETREAT** on 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 via the live stream of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham  
<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

Starting on Sunday 19th April after Compline at 8pm until Sunday 26th April.

Talks each day will be at 10.00 and 16.00. There will be Mass each day at 12 noon.

The Divine Mercy prayers will be recited with the Rosary at 3pm daily

Morning and Evening prayer will be at 08.30 and 17.00 respectively.

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## REGINA CAELI

*Joy to thee O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia!  
He whom thou wast meet to bear, Alleluia!  
As he promised hath arisen, Alleluia!  
Pour for us to God thy prayer, Alleluia!*

*Rejoice and be glad O Virgin Mary, Alleluia!  
For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

### LET US PRAY

*O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son  
our Lord Jesus Christ hast brought joy to the  
whole world,*

*So through the intercession of His mother  
the Virgin Mary,*

*May we attain the joys of everlasting life,  
Through the same Christ our Lord, AMEN.*

*+ May the Divine Assistance remain with us  
always and may the souls of the faithful  
departed, through the mercy and love of  
God, rest in peace. AMEN.*

**300 CLUB:** Please note that for the time being the 300 club draw will be postponed.

**MAINTAINING OUR FINANCES:** We are very grateful to all who are providing a continuous source of income for the parish, through standing orders and other donations at this challenging time. Your generosity is vital and very much appreciated.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** We would ask that you continue to fill these with your regular giving amount and hold on to them until this crisis is over, we will collect them in then. Alternatively, the diocese has now set up an online giving page this can be found by pressing the "DONATE HERE" button on the website.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Whilst Fr Paul is unable to undertake public Masses, he is still available to offer his private Mass for any intentions that you may need, these will be advertised in the weekly newsletter. If you have an intention, please email it to [chelmsfordbs@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:chelmsfordbs@dioceseofbrentwood.org) and your offering can be made via the "DONATE HERE" button on the front page of our website.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** Virtual children's liturgy with CAFOD. Join Bronagh, Eileen and Martin at 10am each Sunday. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Childrens-liturgy>. Once you have registered you will be signed up for the next 12 sessions. If you can't join in live, a recording will be available to watch afterwards.

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK** will be administered in emergency situations. If someone you know becomes seriously ill, please contact Fr Hugh at Our Lady Immaculate Parish on 01245 352898 or email: [office@chelmsfordcatholic.co.uk](mailto:office@chelmsfordcatholic.co.uk)



### *History of the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy*

In 1935, St. Faustina received a vision of an angel sent by God to chastise a certain city. She began to pray for mercy, but her prayers were powerless. Suddenly she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Jesus' grace within her. At the same time, she found herself pleading with God for mercy with words she heard interiorly:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us. (Diary, 475)

As she continued saying this inspired prayer, the angel became helpless and could not carry out the deserved punishment (see 474). The next day, as she was entering the chapel, she again heard this interior voice, instructing her how to recite the prayer that our Lord later called "the Chaplet." This time, after "have mercy on us" were added the words "and on the whole world" (476). From then on, she recited this form of prayer almost constantly, offering it especially for the dying.

In subsequent revelations, the Lord made it clear that the Chaplet was not just for her, but for the whole world. He also attached extraordinary promises to its recitation.

Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given you (1541). Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death (687). When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the Merciful Savior (1541). Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy (687). I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy (687). Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will. (1731)

Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, so it is especially appropriate to use it after having received Holy Communion at Holy Mass. It may be said at any time, but our Lord specifically told St. Faustina to recite it during the nine days before the Feast of Mercy (the first Sunday after Easter). He then added: "By this Novena, [of Chaplets] I will grant every possible grace to souls." (796)

It is likewise appropriate to pray the Chaplet during the "Hour of Great Mercy" — three o'clock each afternoon (recalling the time of Christ's death on the cross). In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special remembrance of His Passion at that hour.

### *How to Recite the Chaplet*

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

#### 1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### 2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. (Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

#### 3. Our Father

#### 4. Hail Mary

#### 5. The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

#### 6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

#### 7. On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

#### 8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

#### 9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

#### 10. Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

### MASS INTENTIONS FR. PAUL WILL BE CELEBRATING PRIVATELY

Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Leslie Moore RIP (M. East)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April – Second Sunday Of Easter	(Divine Mercy) - People of the Parish
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Anne & Ron Warren RIP (M. Warren)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Mass in time of pandemic
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Ron Warren RIP (Greene Family)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April – St George, Martyr	Intentions of Family of Gerard Fox (M. Fox)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Michael Quinlan RIP (Fr Paul and Parish)
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April – St Mark, Evangelist	Sister M Brigid Breen RIP (Sr. Jean)
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April – Third Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish