

St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday
Year B, 7 April, 2024

Embracing the communities of
Cherbourg, Goomeri, Murgon,
Proston and Wondai



Unity in Diversity ... being one in Christ through Baptism!



16 Insights From Pope Saint John Paul II on Divine Mercy

John Paul II made teaching and spreading Divine Mercy a keystone of his pontificate.

Saint John Paul II is truly called the 'Mercy Pope.'

He beatified and then canonised Saint Faustina Kowalska, who had received the message of Divine Mercy which later spread throughout the world. Long before, when it seemed the writings about Divine Mercy would never see the public light, it was John Paul II who stepped in to move the process along. He spoke and wrote about Divine Mercy and made the Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday for the entire Church. And he died on the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday.

1) Three years after being elected pope, he said on the feast of Christ the King:

"Right from the beginning of my ministry in Saint Peter's See in Rome, I considered this message my special task. Providence has assigned it to me in the present situation of man, the Church and the world."

2) When he was in Poland on 17 August, 2002, for the dedication of Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow-Lagiewniki, John Paul II said in his homily:

"Like Saint Faustina, we wish to proclaim that apart from the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for mankind. We desire to repeat with faith: Jesus, I trust in you!"

3) At the dedication he continued:

"This proclamation, this confession of trust in the all-powerful love of God, is especially needed in our own time, when mankind is experiencing bewilderment in the face of many manifestations of evil..."

4) Emphasising that Divine Mercy is not just for one place, he said:

"May the binding promise of the Lord Jesus be fulfilled: from here there must go forth 'the spark which will prepare the world for his final coming' (Diary, 1732). This spark needs to be lighted by the grace of God. This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world. In the mercy of God the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness!"

5) On 18 April, 1993, on Divine Mercy Sunday, tens of thousands attending the beatification of Saint Faustina listened as Pope John Paul II told them during Mass:

"It is truly marvelous how her devotion to the merciful Jesus is spreading in our contemporary world and gaining so many human hearts! In addition to the advances which have often surpassed those of preceding eras, our present age suffers deep restlessness and fear of the future. Where, if not in the Divine Mercy, can the world find refuge and the light of hope?"

6) Seven years later on another Divine Mercy Sunday, 20 April, 2000, the first of the new millennium, John Paul II canonised Sister Faustina, "the great apostle of Divine Mercy." The Pope said:

"Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified: 'Christ pours out this mercy on humanity through the sending of the Spirit who ... is Love. And is not mercy love's 'second name', understood in its deepest and most tender aspect, in its

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Sunday Mass Times

Murgon

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday	8.00am

Wondai

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Saturday	5.00pm

Proston

every	Saturday	9.00am
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Goomeri

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	Sunday (except 5th Sunday)	6.00pm

Gayndah

WEEK	DAY	TIME
every	1st, 3rd, 5th	10.30am
every	2nd, 4th	9.00am

Cherbourg

WEEK	DAY	TIME
5	Sunday	4.30pm

Weekday Mass Times

12 noon, Wednesday, Gayndah

5.00pm, Wednesday, Wondai

9.00am, Thursday, Murgon

9.00am, Friday, Castra

Holy Hour for Peace

**Wondai, 4.00pm to 5.00pm,
Wednesday, before Mass**

Today's readings

Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6;

John 20:19-31

Response:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

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ability to take upon itself the burden of any need and, especially, in its immense capacity for forgiveness?"

7) That day John Paul II also added:

"What will man's future on earth be like? We are not given to know... But the light of divine mercy, which the Lord in a way wished to return to the world through Sister Faustina's charism, will illuminate the way for the men and women of the third millennium."

8) That same day John Paul II gave many memorable insights into and words about Divine Mercy:

"This consoling message is addressed above all to those who, afflicted by a particularly harsh trial or crushed by the weight of the sins they committed, have lost all confidence in life and are tempted to give in to despair. To them the gentle face of Christ is offered; those rays from his heart touch them and shine upon them, warm them, show them the way and fill them with hope. How many souls have been consoled by the prayer Jesus, I trust in you. This simple act of abandonment to Jesus dispels the thickest clouds and lets a ray of light penetrate every life."

9) In his Divine Mercy Sunday homily in 2001, It was obvious the Holy Father was describing the meaning of the image of The Divine Mercy as he described:

"The Heart of Christ! His 'Sacred Heart' has given men everything: redemption, salvation, sanctification. Saint Faustina Kowalska saw coming from this heart two rays of light which illuminated the world. 'The two rays represent the blood and the water' (Diary, p. 132). The blood recalls the sacrifice of Golgotha and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water, according to the rich symbolism of the Evangelist John, makes us think of Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit."

10) At the same time, he reminded us of something Christ in his Divine Mercy messages said we must do:

"Christ has taught us that 'man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God but is also called' to practice mercy toward others: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Mat 5: 7)."

11) The pope also wrote:

"The truth, revealed in Christ, about God the 'Father of mercies,' enables us

to 'see' him as particularly close to man especially when man is suffering, when he is under threat at the very heart of his existence and dignity. And this is why, in the situation of the Church and the world today, many individuals and groups guided by a lively sense of faith are turning, I would say almost spontaneously, to the mercy of God."

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13) Being a very Marian pope also, John Paul II wrote about our Blessed Mother's role in Divine Mercy:

"Our Lady of Mercy or Mother of Divine Mercy in each one of these titles there is a deep theological meaning, for they express the special preparation of her soul, of her whole personality, so that she was able to perceive that mercy of which 'from generation to generation' people become sharers according to the eternal design of the Most Holy Trinity."

14) He also said:

"We must note that Christ, in revealing the love and mercy of God, at the same time demanded from people that they also should be guided in their lives by love and mercy. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus proclaims: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'"

15) Then the Pope sounded a note of warning even more suitable now that should make us cry to God for mercy:

"The more the human conscience succumbs to secularisation, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word 'mercy,' moves away from God and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy 'with loud cries.' These 'loud cries' should be the mark of the Church of our times, cries uttered to God to implore his mercy."



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We pray for those who are sick:

Renee Elliott; Allan McKeering;
David McIntosh; Bob Ricketts.

Recently deceased: Bevin Barsby



Bevin Barsby was a great worker for the Church and School in the time his kids were going to Saint Joseph's Murgon and Saint Mary's Kingaroy.

He was heavily involved with the P&F, working bees, fetes, bingo and anything really associated with the school and church.

When his kids went to secondary school at Saint Mary's Kingaroy he continued helping in any way he could. Bevin was a 'top-notch'.

In his later years Bevan was a member of the Parish Finance Council and his wife Jan was a member of the Parish Council. *David Parker*

16) After he beatified Saint Faustina, John Paul II strongly reminded everyone what he saw as a "clear indicator of the way" for us to follow: 'Jesus, I trust in you.' If only mankind puts trust in Jesus, he will always find himself in the light. Praised be Jesus Christ.

Joseph Pronechen NCR