



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 10am (also streamed)

& 11.30am

Monday-Saturday 10am



Sunday Mass 11.30am

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am

Saturday 9am



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 10am

Mon & Wed 6.30pm;

Fri 8.30am

Sunday 11th April—Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

We pray for those who have died recently: Ellen Cruickshank, Maureen Nolan, (David) Michael Smith, Ashley Cargill and Lilian Kean **and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Bert Martin, William Noonan, Margaret Findlay, Agnes Quinn, Helen and Joe O'Brien, Joe Dailly, Mary Dailly, George Donald and Frank Creegan. We also remember all those mentioned in our books of remembrance. **Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember in your prayers the sick, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

Easter Celebrations: Last week's newsletter omitted any Easter greetings so, on behalf of Fr Alex, Fr Jean and myself can I wish you all the blessings of Easter and the seven weeks of the Easter season. We have plenty of time to celebrate this great season and perhaps, as time goes on, we will have all the more to celebrate as the Covid restrictions are eased.

Welcome: Last week I should have made mention of Keith McArtney who was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. We congratulate Keith and welcome him into the parish community at St Mary's. We also recognize the support he has received from his wife Jenna, and from his mother-in-law, Marie who also acted as his sponsor.

Enquirers: As we welcome Keith, we invite anyone who is thinking about joining the Church or is at the stage of being interested in knowing more, to get in touch by speaking to either Fr Alex or myself.

Change of Mass Time: Please note that from this weekend 10-11th April, there will be a 4.30pm vigil Mass at St Leonard & St Fergus in place of the Sunday evening Mass. The list for the congregation will remain the same, but there is space at this Mass for anyone else who wishes to sign up for this Mass or change to it. Please let either Fr Alex or me know. Please also note that, from this weekend, the streamed Mass from St Mary's will be the normal 10am Mass.

Distribution of Holy Communion: We will return to the traditional moment in Mass for the distribution of Holy Communion. The Congregation will continue to receive Holy Communion in their places but will now receive Holy Communion immediately after the priest's communion. We will then remain in the church for the final prayer of the Mass, the blessing and dismissal. **Please take your time in leaving the church so as to observe social distancing while exiting the buildings.**

St Mary's PS Easter Prayer Cards: There are still a few of the prayer cards prepared by the children. Please feel free to take the cards for friends and neighbours, especially the housebound.

Funerals this week: I would ask any stewards who can help at the following funerals to contact me: St Mary's, Tuesday 13th April at 1.30pm and St Mary's, Friday 16th April at 11am. Thank you.

Lists for Mass: Please remember that your names are permanently on a list for Sunday Mass, so there is no need to confirm your places every week. If your name does not appear, please let me know and we will add you to the list. If you find that you want or need to change the Mass you are attending, please let me know and I will make the necessary adjustments.

Collections: Ordinary | Easter: St Mary's £1323 | £454; St Leonard & St Fergus' £956 | £605; St Columba's £698 | £150. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the parishes and the work of the Church.

SCIAF Boxes: Please hand these in to any of the churches as soon as possible so that we can make sure that our Lenten Alms reach SCIAF in good time.

SCIAF Fundraising: Over the weekend of 24th/25th April there will be a raffle and book sale at St Mary's to further support the work of SCIAF. I am sure that there will be many of you who have either been reading more during Lockdown and are now wanting to pass on some of your 'good reads', or have done a bit of clearing out and likewise want to shift some of your books. We need to have the books brought in soon so that we can hold them in isolation so that they will be free of any possible traces of the virus before the sale. There will be boxes at the back of St Mary's for any books to be deposited. The same is planned for outside the church so pray for clement weather that weekend.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: The first draw was held this week and the winner was no.75, Ella Hoey. There will be an update next week on how the Restoration Fund as a whole is standing.

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

Could you be called to be like the apostles, who testified to the Resurrection of Jesus with great power, building up the community of faith as a diocesan priest, a deacon or religious? Speak to your Vocations Director, Fr Mark, email *Priests for Scotland* at office@pfs.org.uk, or see our website or Facebook pages (PFS or VocationNetworkScotland).

Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday.

An extract from a sermon given by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sister Faustina Kowalska on 30 April 2000: 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, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the 20th century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people, know well how necessary was the message of mercy.

Jesus told Sr Faustina: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy." 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 our 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.

It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter." In the various readings, 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 we not only receive and experience the mercy of God, but are also called to practise mercy towards others: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." He also showed us the many paths of mercy, which not only forgives sins but reaches out to all human needs. Jesus bent over every kind of human poverty, material and spiritual.

It is not easy to love with a deep love, which lies in the authentic gift of self. This love can only be learned by penetrating the mystery of God's love. Looking at him, being one with his fatherly heart, we are able to look with new eyes at our brothers and sisters, with an attitude of unselfishness and solidarity, of generosity and forgiveness. All this is mercy!

Sr Faustina Kowalska wrote in her Diary: "I feel tremendous pain when I see the sufferings of my neighbours. All my neighbours' sufferings reverberate in my own heart; I carry their anguish in my heart in such a way that it even physically destroys me. I would like all their sorrows to fall upon me, in order to relieve my neighbour." This is the degree of compassion to which love leads, when it takes the love of God as its measure!

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.

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," which Providence intimated through Sr Faustina!

And you, Faustina, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: Christ Jesus, I trust in you!