

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 118.

RESPONSE:

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

1. Let the house of Israel say,
'His mercy endures forever'.
Let the house of Aaron say,
'His mercy endures forever'.
Let those who fear the Lord say,
'His mercy endures forever'. R
2. The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds;
his right hand is exalted.
The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds'.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord punished me, punished me severely,
but did not hand me over to death. R
3. The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.
this is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad. R

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

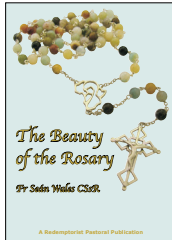
Alleluia, alleluia. You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Take your hand and feel the place of the nails, and be no longer doubtful but believing, alleluia.

A new and revised edition of this popular bestseller in which the author discusses the origin, structure and nature of the ancient form of christian prayer, the Rosary. There are several new additions to this book, including a Holy Land "pilgrims rosary."



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 8 Apr ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Psalm 40; Luke 1:26-38

Our God has become one with us to share in our humanity. Oh, the humility of God! The love of God! And how do I reply? With nothing less than a whole-hearted "yes" to whatever God wants of me.

Tue 9 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 93; John 3:7-15

Do friends or family sometimes subtly impose peer pressure on you that is contrary to the way of Jesus? Ponder the ultimate courage of Nicodemus, and let his courage inspire you to be a more faithful follower of Jesus.

Wed 10 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 5:17-26; Psalm 34; John 3:16-21

Try to see yourself as Nicodemus, a good person who is trying to understand Jesus and his teachings more clearly. Read, and listen carefully to Jesus' words in today's Gospel and accept them deeply in faith.

Thu 11 Apr St Stanislaus, BM

Acts 5:27-33; Psalm 34; John 3:31-36

'Love' from a secular view focuses on attraction and desire, whereas divine love is about giving. It is not about wanting, taking, desiring, feeling, etc, but giving oneself to another, giving 'everything' away.

Fri 12 Apr (St Zeno of Verona, B)

Acts 5:34-42; Psalm 27; John 6:1-15

How long will it take before we put an end to our fearfulness, and trust in God's faithfulness? For many it is a lifelong journey. Allow God's Spirit into your heart to transform your fear into courage.

Sat 13 Apr (St Martin I, PM)

Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33; John 6:16-21

"Do not be afraid!" Imagine yourself in the boat with the disciples that night, and then see Jesus coming to you speaking those words. Know that he speaks them to you in the darkest moments of your life. Hope in him.

Sun 14 Apr 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalm 4; Luke 24:35-48

"We need regular quiet time with God in order to have the strength, courage, and vitality required for social action: for moving against injustices, speaking truth to power, and assisting in humanitarian efforts." – Lerita Brown

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) B=Bishop; M=Martyr; P=Pope

Catholic Link

EASTER SPIRITUALITY

2nd Sunday of Easter • Year B
Divine Office: Week II • 7 April 2024

Easter Mercy

The Resurrection of Jesus is not only the central doctrine of the Christian faith (... if Christ is not raised then your faith is in vain – 1 Corinthians 15:14), but it is, or should be, the primary impetus for Christian spirituality. In other words, it is not simply a belief to be held but a way to be lived. Spirituality is the 'heart' response of human beings to the gift of the Holy Spirit they have received. It is life itself – but lived in the Spirit. During this Easter season, *Catholic Link* offers you some of the ways to live the spirit of Easter, to develop a personal Easter spirituality.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. How can we make this more personal, integrating it into the challenges of our day-to-day life? Firstly, by seeing it in the Risen Life of Jesus himself, and secondly, by emulating him in our own lives.

Divine mercy is God loving the world so much as to give his only Son for our healing and salvation. Jesus is God's love incarnate, or as Pope Francis declared for the Year of Mercy in 2016, Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy.

At the heart of mercy is a willingness to identify with another's weakness or brokenness and to raise that person up to their true dignity and potential. Mary understood this in her Magnificat: "Mindful of his mercy, God has raised up the lowly." Jesus has completely identified with us in our weakness. He is the fullest expression of the mercy of God. That mercy is revealed in different ways in the different key events of our salvation: The birth of Jesus as a tiny vulnerable baby; the ministry of Jesus going about healing the

sick and forgiving sins; the crucifixion of Jesus who from the cross cried out, "Father, forgive them"; and the resurrection of Jesus which reveals the triumph of life over death, good over evil.

True Christian spirituality is to live this mystery of mercy, to "become" it. We must not reduce it to an article of faith, of academic interest, something that we learn in our catechism. We need to internalise it. Christians are Easter people. Everything about us should breathe the power of new life, of risen life. The risen life of Jesus within each of us by virtue of our baptism and our nourishment with his very lifeblood in the Eucharist, shines forth in every Christian act of mercy. It is worth spelling these out again, to remind ourselves that mercy is not a noun (which technically it is) but a verb (i.e. faith in action):

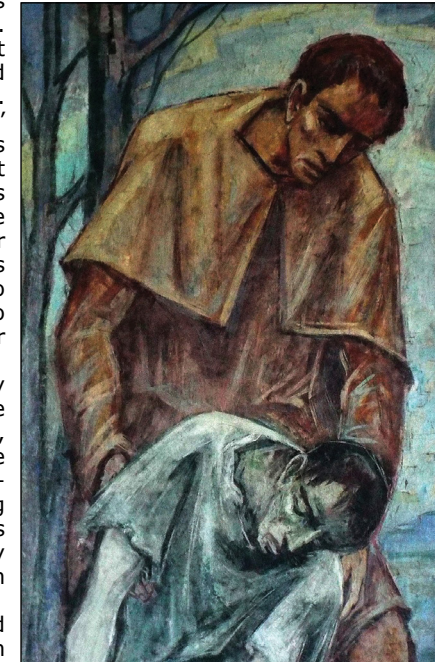


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Corporal works of mercy

1. To feed the hungry.
2. To give water to the thirsty.
3. To clothe the naked.
4. To shelter the homeless.
5. To visit the sick.
6. To visit the imprisoned or ransom the captive.
7. To bury the dead.

Spiritual works of mercy

1. To instruct the ignorant.
2. To counsel the doubtful.
3. To correct the sinner.
4. To bear patiently those who wrong us.
5. To forgive offenses.
6. To comfort the afflicted.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.