

Easter Sunday 4th April 2021



At the Easter Vigil, the Exsultet is sung as Mass begins in darkness, illumined only by candles throughout the church. The Exsultet is a beautiful hymn of rejoicing in Christ's triumph over sin and death. One part states: O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned for us so great a Redeemer!

This line stands out because it calls the sin of Adam "necessary" and refers to it as "O happy fault." At first, this may seem strange. Why is it that we refer to the sin of Adam, Original Sin, as "necessary" and "happy." The answer is Easter. It's because God, in His perfect wisdom and love, took sin and the consequence of sin (death) and used them as the means of the salvation of the world. That's what Easter is all about!

This may be hard to comprehend so it's worth thinking about more deeply. Without Adam's sin, there would be no Jesus. God would not have had to become one of us. So even though the original sin of Adam, as well as all future sin, is evil and wrong, God in His perfect power and love chose to use it as the very means of the salvation of the world. How? By allowing the sins of the world to persecute Him and crucify Him, and then, by turning that suffering and death into the very means of salvation! Jesus' Resurrection takes away the effects of all sin for those who cling to Him. Easter is a time when we must do just that. We must "cling" to our resurrected Lord!. How do we cling to our Resurrected Lord? There are many ways. Here is one.

Take joy in everything. Start with whatever it is that burdens you the most. Whatever it is that makes you angry, sad or depressed. Whatever that is, it can potentially become one of your greatest sources of grace and joy!

Lord, help me to cling to You in Your Resurrection. Help me to let you transform every cross and burden in my life into joy. Your joy fill my life and be my strength in all things. Jesus, I trust in You.

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY: Sunday 11th April

The message of Divine mercy is so important for our parish and city and country and our world. Pope Francis recognised this in proclaiming an extraordinary jubilee year of mercy in 2015-2016. Our parish was at the epicentre of the political violence and conflict which lasted over fifty years from 1969. The message of mercy is so necessary for healing the wounds of this conflict and violence. This message is important for victims and perpetrators

The great unprecedented evil in the world today is the lack of mercy. Mercy according to St John Paul II is God and Love's second name. Mercy is God's love when it means poverty, weakness and brokenness and sin. Mercy has the power to bring something greater out of such evil. Where sin abounds grace does even more abound (Romans 5:12.) Now is the time that mercy needs to be proclaimed more than ever.

Living with the pain of the past takes its toil on physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional lives of many people victims and perpetrators. It wounds souls. The image, message and Devotion to Divine Mercy has led many in our parish and world to rediscover the face of God as loving and merciful. When we gaze on the face of God in the Divine Mercy image we truly begin to live mercifully and bring His mercy to others. We honour in St Mary's Creggan, therefore two great saints St Faustina and St John Paul II whom God used to enable us to understand Divine Mercy. St. Faustina who received the revelation of the Divine Mercy wrote that Jesus told her:

"The greater the sinner the greater the mercy. Summon all those to confidence in the incomprehensible depth of My Mercy for I desire to save all. The well of Mercy was opened wide with a lance on the Cross, for all souls. I do not exclude anyone".

The Divine Mercy Novena Commenced on Good Friday - in order to open ourselves out to the grace and mercy of Christ, those who pray the Novena are asked to receive the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for the Feast.

Confessions available on Saturday at 10:30am and on Saturday evening from 5pm 6-15pm



On the Feast of the Divine Mercy the Novena will conclude **(Sunday 11th April) with Divine Mercy Devotions at 3pm here in St. Mary's when Bishop Mc Keown will bless the two new Statues of St John Paul and Saint Faustina, who God used to bring to the world the Divine Mercy Message.**

Fr Joe, Fr Daniel and Fr Gerry wish all our parishioners a very Blessed and Holy Easter. Jesus is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE TWO STATUES OF SAINT JOHN PAUL 11 AND SAINT FAUSTINA WERE PURCHASED AS A RESULT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS PARISH.

They were carved from solid wood in Italy and arrived here in the parish shortly before the lock down in March 2020. This generosity was seen yet again in contributions to flowers, vestments and Altar Linen. Thank you for your generosity.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

FR JOE AND FR DANIEL WISH TO THANK MOST SINCERELY ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN PREPARING THE CHURCH, KEEPING US SAFE, THE FLOWER ARRANGERS, MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR, OUR READERS AND OUR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ALONG WITH ALL WHO HELPED US TO CELEBRATE THE HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES.

CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPES Another year of our Church Collection Envelopes begins on Sunday 11^h April and the parishioners making their donations this way will have a new box delivered by them . Thank you once again to those who prepared and delivered the envelopes.

For those outside of the parish and who contribute in this way the envelopes are available in the Sacristy after Mass. Anyone else who would like to use an envelope should leave their name and address after any Mass or call to or telephone the Parish Office 9am - 1pm - Monday to Friday.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE, NO MATTER IN WHAT WAY YOU CONTRIBUTE TO ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH

GIFT AID SCHEME: If you are a tax payer and contribute through the envelope scheme, then the parish can claim back the tax paid on your donation. The only information we require from you is your name, address and National Insurance Number and the scheme is entirely confidential. If you wish to know more about this, please contact Fr Joe or Fr Daniel .

THANK YOU FOR RETURNING YOUR TROCAIRE BOXES TO THE CHURCH. YOU WILL FIND A STAND AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT TO PLACE YOUR DONATION