

# APRIL 11TH, 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

## St. Thomas More Parish with St. Bernadette Mission



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stthomasmillbrook.ca



PASTOR: FR. ANTONIO BAROL

### PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Those who are sick, especially:

Erica Perk/Shirley Kloefer/Josef and Hermie Jandristis,  
and Dolores Flood.

And those who have died, especially

Bernadette Durand, Carlos Tampon and Fr. Bernie Bascal

### MASS SCHEDULE: APRIL 14TH - 18TH

#### ST. THOMAS MORE RECTORY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY : 5 PM, THURSDAY: 9 AM, FRIDAY: 5 PM

#### ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

SATURDAY 4:00 PM

SUNDAY 9:00 AM.

#### ST. BERNADETTE, NESTLETON

SUNDAY 11:00AM

*(MAX ATTENDANCE IN THE CHURCH - 30)*

### PLEASE VISIT THE DIOCESE OF PETERBOROUGH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND LINKS TO ON-LINE MASSES

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## FR. ANTONIO BAROL'S MESSAGE- DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Dear sisters/brothers, parishioners of St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette,

We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad...alleluia! May the Risen Saviour shower us with His love, mercy and protection from all harm of mind, body and soul. The second Sunday of Easter is designated as "Divine Mercy Sunday." St. Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, canonized St. Sister Faustina Kowalska, and on that day he also instituted the feast of the Divine Mercy, as every second Sunday of Easter. Try to read the life of Sister Faustina and we can learn that God chose the humble to become an instrument in the work of redemption like most of the Apostles that the Lord Jesus had chosen; they were mostly fishermen with the exception of some, like Matthew a tax collector. God did not choose the qualified but He qualifies those whom he had chosen. Throughout her life, Sister Faustina reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with Him, which she noted in her diary, later published as 'The Diary of Saint Faustina: Divine Mercy in my Soul.' Her autobiography, submitted to the congregation for the causes of Saints, quoted some of the conversations with Jesus regarding the Divine Mercy devotion. The Lord Jesus chose Sr. Faustina as the Apostle and 'Secretary' of His Mercy, so that she could tell the world about His great message, which Sr. Faustina recorded in a diary she titled 'Divine Mercy in My Soul. In the Old Covenant He said to her, "I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to Me Merciful Heart." No wonder that St. John Paul II said, "Those who sincerely say, 'Jesus, I trust in you,' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears.

During the Easter season, we noticed that both the first and the second readings are from the New Testament, because the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and after the resurrection, the Church is trying to learn about what happened after the Resurrection of Jesus as recorded in the acts of the Apostles, how the first group of Jesus' followers were striving to exist in the face of persecutions and even the threat of death, making many of them martyrs of their faith especially the apostles, who tried to do the mission that Jesus gave them before ascending to heaven, to go and proclaim the Good News. Cont'd/ .....

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In the first reading, we learned how the first Christians lived; they shared everything they have and it said, "there was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the Apostles feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." We can just imagine how they lived as brothers and sisters, and how they trusted each other. We presume they lived simply according to their basic needs. We know from scripture too that time came when the apostles asked to be relieved from the temporal works of distributing the goods to the members, so the people suggested that they elected people to be in charge of goods distribution and allowed the apostles to do their mission of bringing the Good News instead of being tied up with temporal affairs. That is why the idea of permanent deacons came into the life of the Church to look after the temporal needs of the members.

The gospel narrates what happened in the evening of the Resurrection and that was the first day of the week, being Sabbath as the seventh day. Jesus made the first day of the week, being Sunday as the day of the Lord, for He rose on that day and to avoid confusion with the Jewish day of rest. He also tried to celebrate the first Eucharist in His remembrance during the first day of the week when he was with the two disciples in Emmaus, when they invited the stranger (Jesus) during supper when he gave thanks, blessed and broke the bread and then, their eyes were opened and recognized Jesus. For us Christians we follow the tradition of the first followers of Jesus, making the first day of the week, which is Sunday as the day of the Lord. If other Christian groups will ask us why we are not following the seventh day as the day of the Lord, at least we can explain to them why, that we are following the day that Jesus rose from the dead and the day that he did the first commemoration of the Last Supper.

As a continuation of the Emmaus event, that evening Jesus appeared to the disciples, though the doors were locked because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Remember that they were accused of stealing the body of Jesus, so they were wanted by the authorities and to give support to one another they grouped together and to their great surprise Jesus came and stood among them. To reassure them, Jesus showed them his hands with the nail hole and his side with the mark of the wound. His greeting was, "Peace be with you", since they were scared and troubled what would happen to them if the authorities were to catch them. It was at this moment that Jesus empowered them through the Holy Spirit to forgive sins, thus he instituted the sacrament of Reconciliation. Therefore their feeling of fear can only be appeased when they know how to forgive and that was what Jesus did to those who nailed him to the cross. While hanging on the cross, his first statement was, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Jesus was teaching them that it was only through forgiveness that they can achieve peace. Let us remember that some of Jesus' disciples still had the idea that they were waiting for the Messiah to lead them to push the Romans away from their land and they wanted revenge, so Jesus gave them the ingredient of peace, forgiveness. It is for us too that it is through the sacrament of Reconciliation we can attain peace with God with others and our own spirit. Therefore in this Divine Mercy Sunday let us thank God for the gift of His mercy which we get through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Francis encourages us to have a special devotion to Divine Mercy and suggested that we do the works of mercy too, the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works of mercy focus on physical needs, 1. Feed the hungry, 2. Give drink to the thirsty, 3. Clothe the naked, 4. Shelter the homeless, 5. Visit the sick, 6. Visit those in prison, and 7. Bury the dead. The spiritual works of mercy center on spiritual and emotional needs, 1. Instruct the ignorant, 2. Counsel the doubtful, 3. Admonish the sinner, 4. Comfort the sorrowful, 5. Forgive injuries, 6. Bear wrongs patiently, and 7. Pray for the living and the dead. Most of us have done these and let us continue doing them especially during this time of the pandemic that many of our brothers and sisters in our parish family are alone and homebound but please do them safely.

Quote of the week: "There is nothing more we need than Divine Mercy - that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises us above our weaknesses to the infinite heights of the holiness of God." (St. Pope John Paul II)

With this, another provincial lockdown please, stay safe and continue praying for an end to this pandemic, that God will send His Angels and saints to heal the world.

Thank you for your continued support for our parish to stay open to serve our spiritual needs.....God Bless. Fr. tony



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