HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH MENAI

LIVING AND SHARING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AS A GROWING PARISH FAMILY

Alfords Point Bangor Barden Ridge Illawong Lucas Heights Menai Woronora West

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 6 April 2025 Year C/1—Divine office Psalter Week 1

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 43:16-21)

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 3:8-14)

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from

God and based on faith. All I want is to

know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 8:1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a

woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned. let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Parish Priest: Rev. Mani Malana msfs E: pastor@holyfamilymenai.org.au

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St Vincent de Paul, Menai Conference - Contact Chrissie Guglielmini E: Chrissie.guglielmini@vinnies.org.au

Holy Family Primary Principal: Phillip Tax Ph 9543 2614

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Garden Maintenance: Steve Connor E:titan.lawnmowing@gmail.com

Holy Family Parish Menai 1D Anzac Rd Menai NSW 2234

Phone: 02 9543 2677 E: admin@holyfamilymenai.org.au Web: <u>HolyFamilyMenai.org.au</u> **Parish Office hours:**

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 4pm **Mass Timings:**

Weekday: Tue - Sat 9.15am 1st Friday of the month: 7.00pm Weekend: Saturday Vigil 5.30pm Sunday: 8.30am, 10.00am

Blessed Sacrament Exposition

Tue - Sat: 8.30am - 9.10am
Fri - 8.30am Laud's music
8.45am Divine Mercy Chaplet
9am Benediction of the Blessed
Sacrament

1st Friday of the month (after 7pm Mass - 12am)

Lauds Tue, Wed and Thu - 8.45am **Reconciliation:** Sat: 4.30 - 5.15pm Or by appointment.

Holy Communion or Visit at Home: Please contact the parish office to arrange a time.

Baptisms: 1st Sunday during 10am Mass and every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 11.15am (no baptisms during Lent)

Baptism Preparation Program: 11am on the 1st Sat of each month.

In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our Holy Family community:

Kathleen Branley, Victoriano Mendoza, Jan Kurianski, Bernadette O'Brien, Ivan David, Adelaide Buttigieg, Tony Trainor, Ilse Von Stamm, Anthony Mifsud, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Sandra Thomas, Frances Rupolo, Matthew McLachlan, Mark F, Robbert A, Carlos Simoes, Beatrice Gonsalvez, Matilda Oliver-Nalder, Angela Symons, Carol Galdes, Julie Gonsalvez, Robert Nicholls, Brad Jory, Jayden, Natividad Sora, Bernard Aclan, Julius Aclan, Jean Aclan, Geoff Eastgate, Joanne Mannah, Marie Collins and Chris Halvey.

We remember those whose Anniversaries and Special Prayers have been requested :

Lucia Cristiano, Ronald Ball, Teresa Jacob, Felicity Thomas, Maria De Bellis, David Stephenson, Cassie Fonseca, Joseph Alam, Thomas Trutwein, Marilyn Nicholls, Johanna Nicholls, Justin Oliffe, Joe Bridgett and Peter Howlett.

Recently Deceased.

Julia Chalita and Carmelo Schifilliti.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. - Amen -

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

AFTER THE PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.

Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

What's on at Holy Family Parish

- * Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tue Sat: 8.30am 9.10am
- † Morning Prayer (Lauds) Tue Thu 8.45am.
- † Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - Fri 8.45am

1st Friday of the month (after 7pm Mass - 12am)

- † Rosary Sat 8.45am.
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- † Children's Liturgy Not in the School Holidays
- † Daily Rosary, Rosary at 8-8.30pm on Zoom, please text (ROSARY) to 0418 433 333 to receive the link.

THE ALTAR OF REPOSE

Saint John the Evangelist describes the impending events celebrated throughout the Easter Triduum as the hour of Jesus. We should consider the events of the Triduum as a single, salvific event. In fact, the beginning of this single event is the Lord's Last Supper. As we hear in tonight's Gospel, "Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father." (John 13:1) Holy Thursday is rightly considered the moment that Our Lord instituted the Holy Mass. For this reason, it is a day of exceptional devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the hosts consecrated at that Mass are solemnly processed to a beautifully adorned altar of repose (these hosts will be distributed at the celebration of the Passion of the Lord). The faithful are then encouraged to keep vigil with Our Lord as he enters into his Passion. The atmosphere should be prayerful and meditative. The liturgical books instruct that once midnight passes, any continued adoration should take place "without solemnity" as the focus of the faithful shifts to the Christ's Passion.

Catholic Weekly

SUNDAY, 6 APRIL 2025

- ◆ Parents tell of toddler Vincent's "miracle" recovery
- ♦ Women's Lenten retreat inspires
- ♦ Australian Catholic Bishops Conference election statement
- ♦ NSW abortion access bill debate begins
- ♦ Pope Francis approves first PNG saint

Available to purchase in the foyer. Only \$2 please leave the money in the box provided. Thank you.

WHY DO CATHOLICS VEIL THE CRUCIFIXES, STATUES AND IMAGES IN THE CHURCH?

The Catholic Church recommends the practice of veiling statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, in order to heighten our senses and build within us a longing and anticipation for Easter Sunday.

We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. The last weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

The veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

		5.30pm	8:30am	10am	OTHER
ROSTER FOR 12/13 APRIL: (2ND WEEKEND) PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD YEAR C	ACOLYTE SERVERS	Ivan David	Peter Mauch	Adrian D'Mello	Counters: Robert Mulcahy's Team
	READERS	Luce Dunn Hastie Family Bridget Nappa	Allen Oliver Maguy Nakhl Georgette Roumanos	Julie or Michael Monk John Shanahan	Children's Liturgy: Take Home Pack
	WARDENS	Charlie Zammit/Benny Falls	George Szymura/Jim Montague	Cosimo Gioiello	Aeralife Aged Care: Adam
	Musicians	Parish Choir	Jeff and Sue Low	Emma (PowerPoint MP3)	Barden Lodge Aged Care: Linda & Margaret
	PIETY STALL	Michelle	Roslyn	Dianna G	



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or **safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org**. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

From Fr Mani's desk...

Letting the past be the past and the future be the future.

After reading the story of the woman caught in adultery and how Jesus forgave her, we may sometimes feel that Jesus is too soft with sin or he is trivializing adultery. In fact, when the people caught and dragged this woman in front of everyone, their interest was not the sin but in discrediting Jesus. According to the Law of Moses, if anyone commits adultery that person should be stoned to death. If Jesus said, 'stone her', he would be violating Roman law because only Romans had the power to execute. If He said, 'let her go', he would appear to be diminishing the authority of Moses. So they set him to choose between Moses and Rome.

But Jesus takes this opportunity to break open a profound message. Jesus valued repentance and conversion more than just reprisal. Not only did Jesus not condemn the woman, he even gave her hope for the future. Jesus is thus portrayed as a living expression of the divine mercy, a wise and kind judge, more concerned with forgiveness and rehabilitation than with punishment and death. He is teaching us to condemn the sin and not the sinner, both are different. We have no right to judge others because we often commit the very faults we condemn; we are often partial and prejudiced in our judgment and we do not know the circumstances which have led someone to sin. Hence let us leave the judgment to our impartial God who alone reads people's hearts.

When Jesus asked the woman 'where did they all go, isn't anyone left?' Then Jesus says I won't condemn you either. You are free to go but from now on avoid this sin. Let the past be the past and the future be the future. The woman was guilty, ashamed and repentant. She knew her past. When the people brought the past, Jesus gave her a future. Isn't that what the forgiveness of God is all about, to be restored to dignity, to be healed and made whole again? When we get our sins forgiven by God through true confession the Lord wants the penitent to know that he or she is fully forgiven and there is no partial forgiveness for God. We also have to forgive ourselves of our brokenness and guilt, as much as we forgive others. We should remember the past but not linger there because the future is ahead of us. God's grace for us is in the future.

Today's gospel teaches me that there is Someone more interested in restoring my life than in taking it. There is Someone more interested in healing me than in increasing my hurt. There is Someone more interested in my future than in my past. His name is Jesus. I now know what that unpopular man at his death bed told the priest, "Father I am grateful for one thing, that I will be judged by God and not by my fellow men."

We are thankful today because God shows us a new way to treat each other. Jesus being sinless was the only person there who could throw the stone at the woman, but instead of picking up a rock to throw at the woman, he picked up a cross and carried it himself. He picked up the bread and wine to give new life and forgiveness to the sinners, the shamed and the humiliated.

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 12 April

Many hands make light work!! From 10am - 12pm

Please join us for one or two hours for a general tidy-up, inside and outside our Church and car park, getting ready for Holy Week.

Can you please bring along your cleaning/tools.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

20

06

25

PARISH DINNER

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN NEXT WEEKENDS BULLETIN.

Please Welcome Fr Jose Karekatt to Holy Family!



Fr. Jose Karekatt MSFS, is a Fransalian priest for 32 years and is the Founder & Director of ITSSCAT-(Institute of Talent Search for Social Change and Transformation), in Kerala, India. It is a unique educational institution with multifaceted goals for the talented, hardworking and sturdily aspiring high school male students to rise into the top from the economically backward stratum of the society. His dream is to bring about a change in the lives of these children, their families and society, by helping them with proper education, formation and training to get into the administrative services of the nation and other high-profile professions and scientific inventions.

Fr Jose will be celebrating Mass this Saturday 5 April at 5.30pm. Please make him feel welcome.

MAIN TOPICS TO DISCUSS FOR SYDNEY SYNOD

(30 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2025)

The Three Longings

- 1. That our liturgies be more prayful; occasions of real encounter with God and opportunities for faith development; sacramental programs be improved to initiate into prayerful sacramental celebrations.
- 2. That our parish and other Church communities be Christ-centred; where people are called to ongoing conversion; where people are called to live their baptismal dignity, growing in holiness and service; welcoming communities, especially as regards families and the young.
- 3. That we be mission oriented; we carry Christ's presence beyond Church boundaries; we see



TOWARD A MORE PRAYERFUL, CHRISTLIKE AND MISSIONARY CHURCH

Copies of the Pastoral Letter to the Archdiocese of Sydney regarding the Synod of Sydney 2026 can be found in the foyer. Please take home and read.

Forgiven, not forgotten

The words Jesus speaks to the accused woman could as easily be addressed to each of us. We all feel at times that we've done the wrong thing – something we don't deserve to be forgiven for. However, Jesus says to us, I know you've done the wrong thing, and you are already forgiven, but you need to make a commitment to change and not repeat the error. It is Jesus' promise not to give up on us - not to forget about us - that we can draw strength from as we try to respond to his challenge to change.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Gaze of Jesus

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in *full view* of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of *eyes* filled with blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour.

Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future.

We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'lock eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences?

'The eyes have it.'

© Fr Michael Tate



SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

at all Masses next weekend 5/6 April, for all couples celebrating their Wedding Anniversary during the month of April.



Alpha

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

What is life all about and what have we been put on this earth for?

For some people this searching includes GOD, and for others, it

Regardless, the question of "IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS!" is universal.

ALPHA is a series of conversations about Life, Faith, Meaning & God. It creates a safe space for people to ask questions and get connected with others. Alpha runs all around the world and shares a common

- watch a Talk via video and
- Conversation in small groups

WHAT'S ON DURING LENT AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

- Tue Sat: 8.30 9.10 am
- Morning prayer (Lauds):
- Divine Mercy Chaplet and Devotion and Benediction: Friday 8.45 am.
- (Confession before every
- Friday at 7:30pm





Palms

If you have a palm tree and would like to contribute fresh palm leaves at the Palm Sunday blessing of palms, you can drop them off in a basket in the foyer on the Saturday 12 April before 4pm.



ages. ALPHA welcomes people from all walks of life. It explores life's big questions with other people in a friendly,

Testimonies from those that have attended Alpha previously, say that it changed their lives.

> Alpha at Holy Family Parish begins on Wednesday 30th April at zpm in the Church Foyer. Registrations are essential, so please pick up a registration form in the church foyer or email us on the email address below.

> > alpha.holyfamilymenai@gmail.com





Women's Mini Retreat

WITH FR CHRIS ALAR MIC

Modesty: Why is it Important Today? Explaining the Faith

FRI MAY 30, 10:30am to 2pm

St Joachim's Parish Hall, Lidcombe

TICKETS \$30 (includes lunch)



- 10:30am Welcome message by Salwa Elias
- **10:45am** Opening Prayer by Fr Chris Alar
- 11:00am Talk by Fr Chris Modesty: Why is it Important Today? Explaining the Faith
- **12:00pm** Angelus followed by Q&A
- **12:15pm 12:55pm** Lunch
- **1:00pm** Holy Hour of Adoration
- 2:00pm Closing prayers
 Register at: Women's Mini
 Retreat with Fr Chris Alar MIC
 Tickets, Fri 30/05/2025 at 10:30
 am | Eventbrite



Saturday 31 May to Sunday, 1 June St Patrick's Parish Hall 136 Flora St Sutherland



Book now

https://www.trybooking.com/CYXFZ



The purpose of menALIVE is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God, and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church.

www.menalive.org.au

Use the code below to work out what Jesus said to the accused woman



THE AUSTRALIAN

HOLY SHRUUD

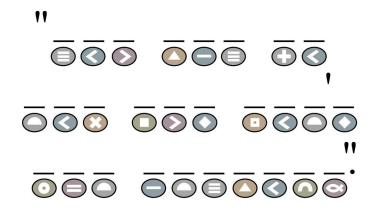
CONFERENCE 2025

The two-day Australian Holy Shroud Conference 2025, which includes a Shroud Artefact Exhibition, intends to make available to the Australian public the most up-to-date findings on the Shroud. In particular it will deal with the 1988 carbon dating issue and subsequent developments. Top-line international and local speakers will present the latest information on the shroud.

Date: 6 pm Friday 27 June to 4 pm Saturday 28 June

Venue: Liverpool Catholic Club **Cost:** \$225 (group tickets available)

https://www.holyshroud.com.au/uncategorized/the-australian-holy-shroud-conference-2025/





HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE

You are invited to ioin us as we commemorate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, celebrated in the sacred Liturgies of Holy Week.

5.30pm Vigil Mass 8.30am and 10am Masses

Tuesday 15 April, 2025

9:15am Daily Mass

9:15am Daily Mass

No 9.15am Mass on this day 10.30am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration at the Altar of Repose after the Mass until 12am

Good Friday 18 April, 202

Divine Mercy Novena begins

10:00am Stations of the Cross Reconciliation 11.15am - 12.15pm

3pm Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

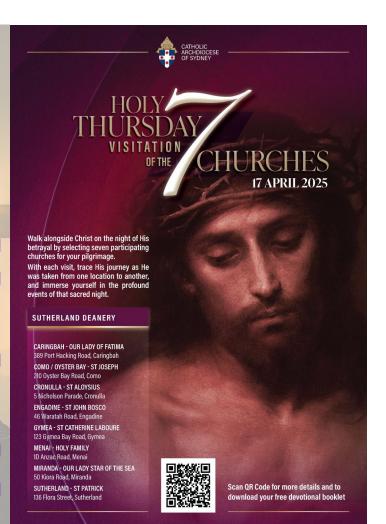
Reconciliation 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Holy Saturday 19 April, 2025

Reconciliation 10am - 11.30am 7:30pm Easter Vigil in the Church

8.30am and 10.30am Masses

(No 10am Mass on this day)





Holy Family Catholic Church Menai Mercy, everyone is welcome to receive in great abundance the gifts of His resurrection.



The Second Sunday of Easter would be called "Divine Mercy Sunday" as desired by Jesus and expressed through St. Faustina. The late Pope St. John Paul II said, "Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium." Today it is in the mercy of God, the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness and there is no other hope for mankind.

Friday 18 April 2025

Novena to Divine Mercy starts.

Sunday 27 April 2025

2pm:

Blessing of the Divine

Mercy Image

Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament and

Confessions. Divine Mercy Chaplet 3pm:

and Benediction

3.20pm: Holy Mass

Veneration of the image of

Divine Mercy.

Sunday, 27 April 2025

Our Lord said these words to Saint Faustina

"Say unceasingly the Chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it, they will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy". (Diary, 687)

'The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death" (Diary, 754).

'At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same' (Diary, 811).

"Through this chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will." (Diary, 1731).