

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

READINGS

Reading I: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm: 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24

Reading II: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through that belief you will inherit eternal life? Belief begins with an intellectual assent but must continuously deepen. The belief Saint John speaks of in today's Gospel is one that draws us deeper into the mystery of Christ's Paschal Mystery - His Life, Death, and Resurrection - so as to receive the gift of His abundant and transforming Mercy.

Today is the eighth day of Easter. The Church, in Her wisdom, celebrates the most important days of the liturgical year for eight days. Historically, there were a number of feasts celebrated with octaves: **Easter, Epiphany, Corpus Christi, Ascension, All Saints, and in some locales, the Sacred Heart and various Marian feasts.** After Vatican II, the Church focused on two - Christmas and Easter - so as to give greater emphasis to the core of the Paschal Mystery.

In the year 2000, the Octave of Easter took on a new focus when Pope John Paul II instituted the Solemnity of Divine Mercy on the eighth day of Easter. This was done in response to Jesus' personal request, communicated to the Church through a humble cloistered Polish nun. Canonized in 2000, she is known as **Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.**

Between 1931 and 1938, Sister Faustina received numerous mystical visions that she recorded in six notebooks, now referred to collectively as *Divine Mercy in My Soul: Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.* Almost two years before her death, Sister Faustina recorded the following entry in her diary:

On one occasion, I heard these words:

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out

for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy"

(Diary #699).

When we reflect on this beautiful private revelation in the light of today's Gospel, we are invited to consider that even though the Gospels present us with all we need to know in order to come to faith in Christ and share in the new life He bestows, the treasure of His Divine Mercy is inexhaustible. Just as **"Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book,"** so also the depths of His ongoing work, His Divine Mercy, will only be seen in Heaven.

Divine Mercy Sunday is a day on which we are to profess our belief in this Mercy. To do so, we must ponder these inexhaustible treasures, probe their depths with the aid of Saint Faustina's private revelations, and then allow our Lord to reveal them to us within the depths of our souls.

Most Merciful Jesus, Your mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I pray that You will pour out Your Mercy upon me and on the whole world. Fill us with the grace You won through Your Paschal Mystery so that all people will come to believe in You as their Lord and God. Jesus, I trust in You.



Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER - 12TH APRIL 2026

North Downs Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth

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Parish of Blessed Hugh Faringdon & Buckland



Ministries

Bible Studies - Dr. Neill Taylor & Paul Padley & Team

Family & Youth Catechesis (Confirmation) - Mrs.

Helena & Emmanuel Boakye & Team

Children Catechesis (Children's Liturgy & FHC) -

Mrs. Kathleen Thomas & Team

Evangelization Catechesis (Adult Evening Studies)

- Dr JP Crilly & Team

Administrator & Maintenance - Andrew Chell

Office Secretary - Nerisa Gomez

Finance - Lorraine Brabin,

PPC & Youth & Children - Kathleen Thomas,

Safeguarding - Ann O'Reilly -

safeguarding.buck@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Mass Setting: Blessed Hugh
Children: 862**

**Entrance: 529 O Lord, my God
(How great thou art)**

Psalm: 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24

**Give thanks to the Lord,
Alleluia, for God's love has no end,
Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia,
for God's love has no end,
Alleluia**

**Offertory: 538 One bread, one body
Communion: 558 O the word of my Lord
Recessional: 678 Thine be the Glory**

Sunday Mass is at 10am.

You can follow Fr. Claro's daily international Masses from his home on Facebook Live here:

<https://facebook.com/blessedhughfaringdonchurch/>

His current schedule (subject to change) is:
7 am Regular Daily Masses Monday to Sunday.

6 pm Masses on Wednesdays and Sundays.

On the first Wednesday of each month:
6 pm Mass in the church (Our Mother of Perpetual Help).

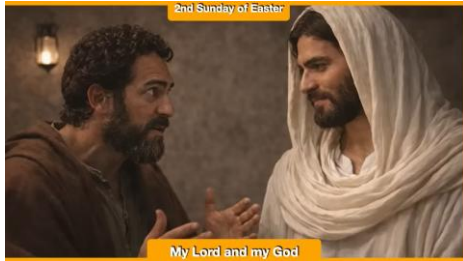
Bible Study

We have a Bible Study, reflecting on the coming Sunday Mass Readings, with Fr Claro on Zoom on Mondays from 7.00pm. To join please use the link on the Parish website home page.

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YOUTUBE LINK for the Bible Study and Commentaries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSnFZWw72PO>



In this homily I'm focusing on three important aspects of today's Gospel. Firstly, the reality of the risen body of Jesus; secondly, the gift of the Spirit as the beginning of the new creation; and finally, what it really means to "believe." (Fr. Geoffrey Plant)

Today is also Divine Mercy Sunday

IMPORTANT DATES

17th April- evening talk *"Three Choirs and a Reformation: English Cathedrals under the Tudors"*

23rd APRIL 6pm Mass Thursday **Feast of St. George, Patron of England**

MAY

14th May 6pm Mass **Thursday Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

24th May **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

31st May **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**

FHC (First Holy Communion) Candidates for 2026 on CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY on 7th of June, please email cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

First Holy Communion Meeting 2026:

1130am – 1pm 19 April, 26 April, 3 May, 10 May (Confession Practice) 17 May Confession, 7 June Corpus Christ 1st Holy Communion at 10am Mass.

CONFIRMATION 2026: June 5th, Friday at 7.30pm at English Martyrs 15 Manor Cres, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Confirmation Candidates 2026, please email me

cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

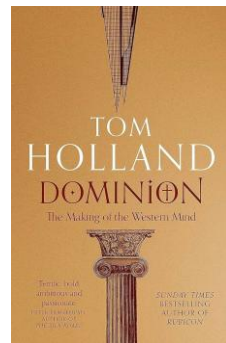
Mwiza Mary Chashi, Wila Chashi, Kirsten Anne Parreno, Grace Kasongo Kate Kasongo, Grace Ann Malabanan, Nicole Malabanan, Dylan Ortiz Pena, Lawrence Lane, Charlie Harriet Pablo, Aioue Elianna E, Garcia, Lirienne Mischa Panganiban

TRAINING HOW TO USE THE SUNDAY MISSAL after the Mass with Dr. David Williamson

PPC & Finance Meetings, see in the parish website

MONDAY BIBLE ZOOM time 7pm

BOOKS TO READ



Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind is a 2019 non-fiction history book by British author Tom Holland. The book is a broad history of the influence of Christianity on the world, focusing on its impact on morality – from its beginnings to the modern day.

Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (from Liturgy Team)

Fr Anthony Fyk is organising a formation morning for EMHC on Saturday 9th May 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk by Fr Jeremy Corley, focusing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: *"Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?"*. All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. Please could you advertise this in your newsletters and ask interested people to register via interested people to register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Evening talk- Friday 17th April, 7.45 pm

Join us on Friday 17th April for the next in our series of evening talks.

"Three Choirs and a Reformation: English Cathedrals under the Tudors"

by

Dr Richard Fisher

In this illustrated talk Dr Richard Fisher explains how the nineteen cathedrals of medieval England were administered and funded, including their curious division into two very distinct organisational groups. Henry VIII is infamous for his dissolution of the monasteries, but not so well known for creating six new dioceses, bishops and their requisite cathedrals from abbeys spared destruction. Yet which did he choose to save and why? Using examples from the west of England, focusing on the cathedrals at Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester, the story is told of how the cathedrals survived the Reformation and emerged to contribute to the distinctive worship of the resultant Anglican church Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester, the story is told of how the cathedrals survived

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Pentecost: Sunday 24th May

There are several things to note about Pentecost this year.

1. There will be a shared lunch after Mass. Please bring food to share and if you can help either setting up in the hall beforehand, or tidying up afterwards, please let the PPC know.
2. At the shared lunch there will be a presentation of the findings of the parish questionnaire.
3. There will also be the opportunity to find out more about the various ministries and services within the parish (e.g. eucharistic minister, reader, catechist (adult and children's), welcomers, refreshments rota), and to volunteer for them.
4. In keeping with tradition, please wear red on the day, to symbolise the fire of the Holy Spirit.
5. There will be a second collection for Missio.