

THE EASTER SEASON ISN'T JUST EASTER SUNDAY



The joy Christians experience when contemplating Christ's resurrection is so profound and overpowering that it cannot be confined to just one festival day.

This is why Easter is a season that begins on Easter Sunday and continues for seven full weeks. This cycle is known as the *Great Fifty Days* or the *Week of Weeks*. During this time, the church celebrates the Lord's resurrection, His appearances to the disciples after Easter, His post-resurrection teachings, His ascension into heaven, and the disciples' eager anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

While the empty tomb is a key focus of the season, we are celebrating more than a historical event. We are celebrating the mystery of Christ's redemptive activity in our lives today. During the Easter Season, we have the opportunity to integrate memory and hope, passion and glory, prayers of thanksgiving for what has already occurred and prayers for what is to come — celebrating the mystery of the 'already' and 'not yet' of our faith. Easter is a celebration of the paschal mystery - the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost, the last day of the Easter Season, is the feast that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

For more information:
www.padiocese.ca/jubileeofmercy

UPCOMING EVENTS DURING THIS EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

Many of you will already have heard the from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016, Pope Francis has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Pope Francis' desire is that everyone will have an opportunity to experience the Father's Mercy and that as we experience this grace, we too will become "Merciful like the Father" (MV, 14).

A number of events have already taken place in the Diocese to celebrate this Jubilee of Mercy and there are many more to come. All the events celebrated during the Jubilee Year invite those in attendance to receive the Father's mercy so as to become an ambassador of the Father's mercy in the world.

Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m.

Jubilee for Devotees of the Spirituality of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
Mont St. Joseph, Prince Albert

Friday, June 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Diocese's Feast Day
Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince Albert

Sunday, June 12, 2016

Jubilee for those who are ill and Opening of Holy Doors at Shrine of St. Therese in Wakaw
St. Therese Shrine Parish, Wakaw

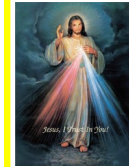
July 15 – 16, 2016

Opening Holy Doors at the Shrine at St. Laurent
St. Laurent Shrine near Duck Lake

For more information and for dates for other events
please go to <http://www.padiocese.ca/>

MV refers to the Papal Bull *Misericordiae Vultus* in which Pope Francis announced the Jubilee of Mercy, defines "Jesus Christ as the face of the Father's mercy," and challenges us to be "merciful like the Father." (14) References to MV are followed by a number in brackets. This number refers to the paragraph from which the particular quote was taken. To read the entire document go to <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/bolla.html>

GOD LOVES US – ALL OF US! THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET



During this Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis asks us to pray to all the saints whose lives exemplified the Father's mercy. In MV Pope Francis writes, "I am especially thinking of the great apostle of mercy, Saint

Faustina Kowalska. May she, who was called to enter the depths of divine mercy, intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love." (24)

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. God wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for the Father's mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

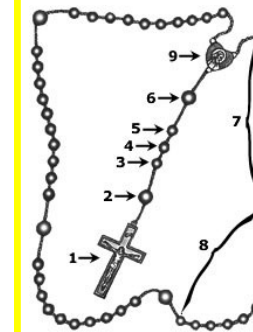
C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Spend time to learn more about the mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you.

This explanation was taken from a site dedicated to The Divine Mercy, to explore further go to <http://www.thedivinemercy.org/>

HOW TO RECITE THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.



1. Make the Sign of the Cross

2. Opening Prayer

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!
(Repeat three times)

3. Our Father

4. Hail Mary

5. The Apostle's Creed

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

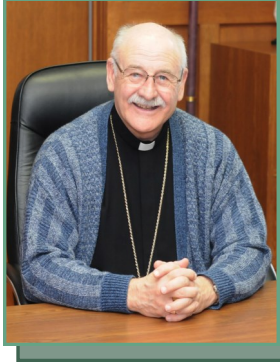
Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.



This year, the first Sunday of April is Divine Mercy Sunday. Through the visions and apparitions given to Sr. Marie Faustina in the 1930's, we received the invitation from our Lord to observe this feast of Mercy. In the year 2000, Sr. Faustina was canonized at the same celebration Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina's relationship with the Lord was intimate, profound, and mystical, which she sustained by daily prayer and Eucharist. In her fragility of heart, she gave her life to Christ, this Lord as man, who had silently accepted his sufferings, who had let humankind stretch out his arms on a cross and pierce his heart from which came water and blood; the same Lord who became the Mystery of the Heart of infinite mercy and love for all humankind.

What motivated God to show us such mercy, if not his merciful love for us? We have just celebrated Holy Week in which we followed Christ as he walked to his rejection, his suffering, his crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Jesus wanted the whole mystery of our salvation to be captivated in the Eucharist as we share the Word and participate in His body and blood, our prayer of thanksgiving for such mercy. The Father had mercy on us and sent us his Son. Jesus is the expression of this merciful love of the Father for our world.

St. Faustina was given the grace to listen to this Lord of Mercy. She eventually shared with us her understanding of His merciful grandeur. Why, at this time, has the Pope led us to the year of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy? Our world is suffering. Just look around. Take a reality check. Many walk through life with unhealed wounds in their hearts and the guilt of their actions has filled them with fear and bitterness. They feel as if they are unforgivable sinners. This Holy Year of Mercy tells us that this is false.

During Jesus' ministry, he journeyed with mercy in his heart and in his hands, and shared it with all the people he met. Sin drags us down while mercy lifts us up and brings joy and happiness to our hearts. The readings after Easter bring us through the journey of the first days and years of the Church as the apostles brought Christ's message to the world. Today, the Church, our family of families is to be the image of this mercy, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Mercy is not a concept but an expression of our belief in him as the one God. St. Faustina experienced and wrote about mercy just before the Second World War. As faith in our world experiences difficult times, we too are called to say: "**Jesus, I trust in you.**" (327)

*Most Rev. Albert Thévenot M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert*



**Roman Catholic
Diocese of Prince Albert**

1415 - 4th Avenue West
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5H1
Phone: 306-922-4747

This is the fifth Jubilee of Mercy insert set to parishes. If you have enjoyed reading these please send us a note at officeprogramsmgr@padiocese.ca or call Louis at (306)922-4747 extension 233 or send a letter to the above address attention Louis Hradecki. This will help us determine future inserts.