



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

APRIL 19, 2020 – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

HOLY WEEK 2020 - Prayer & Adoration - Good Friday,

Saturday & Easter Sunday - 9:00am to 4:30pm Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays

Peaceful World

The man whispered, "God, speak to me" And a meadowlark sang. But, the man did not hear. So, the man yelled, "God, speak to me" And the thunder rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen. The man looked around and said, "God let me see you." And a star shined brightly. But the man did not see. And, the man shouted, "God show me a miracle." And, a life was born. But the man did not notice. So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here. "Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man. But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on. I found this to be a great reminder that God is always around us in the little and simple things that we take for granted even in our electronic age, so I would like to add one more: The man cried, "God, I need your help!" And an e-mail arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement. But the man deleted it and continued crying...

Today as we celebrate the Divine Mercy Feast, we could see the world just like the man in this story seeking to find God in this pandemic. St. Faustina was privileged to receive apparitions from Jesus emphasizing his mercy, and especially his mercy today. Jesus for the sake of us died on the cross to save us and show his great love and mercy. He doesn't leave people alone in their pain and suffering but shows compassion "he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd". He keeps inviting people "Come to me all that are weary and carrying heavy burden and I will give you rest". Through St. Faustina, Jesus invites us to experience his love and mercy through the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus said to St. Faustina: "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, especially 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 flow 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.

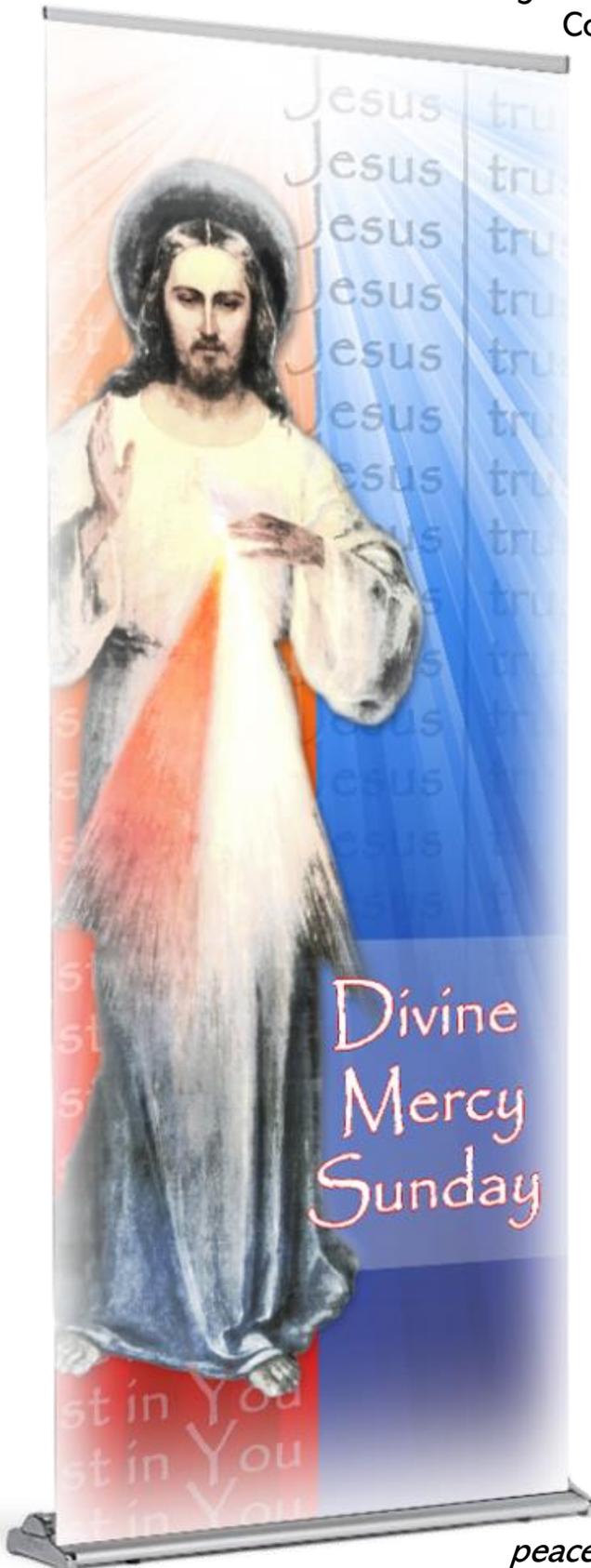
It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy." (Diary §699). Furthermore, he added: "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to

Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy." (Diary §1109). He continued to say, "Ask of my faithful servant [a priest] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Diary §300)

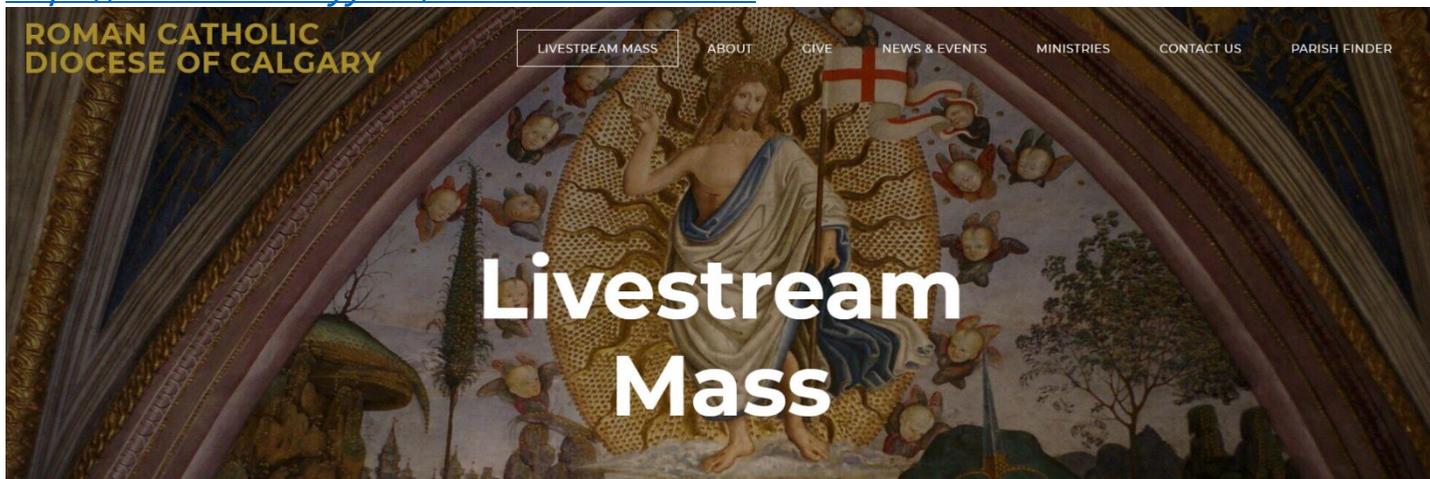
Even today when we reflect on the Gospel, there we come to know that Jesus appears to his disciples and greets them with "**Peace be with you**". It shows the pure wishes of Jesus that he wants peace in the world. However sometimes we become like St. Thomas who didn't believe but doubted in the resurrection of the Lord. Our doubt will lead us to nothing, but belief will make us to do work of mercy to the share the love of Jesus which he shared on the cross. "My daughter, if I demand through you that people revere My mercy, you should be the first to distinguish yourself by this confidence in My mercy. I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it. I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first – by deed, the second – by word, the third – by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy, and I demand the worship of My mercy through the solemn celebration of the Feast and through the veneration of the image which is painted. By means of this image I shall grant great graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of my mercy because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works". (Diary §742).

Today we need Jesus more than ever to have a peaceful world because he is the Prince of Peace. Let us

ask Jesus on this Divine Mercy Sunday to help us believe in him and get rid of all the doubts we have in our lives.



To see all the livestream Masses please visit the Dioces at ...
<https://www.catholicyc.ca/livestreammass.html>



An Easter Message from Bishop McGrattan

My dear brothers and sisters,

Peace and Easter blessings be upon you.

The Lord appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and greeted them, saying, "Peace be to you." Many times in sacred scripture our blessed Lord offers his peace. So it is in our lives, the Lord Jesus stands in our midst and says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27, NRSV)

The challenges experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic will be far reaching: the heavy toll of the illness itself on those who experience its effects, the loss of human lives, the suffering borne by families and communities, the heroic responses of those who provide essential services, and the dutiful acceptance of the routines put into daily practice to promote communal health and safety for the sake of others.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, one might ask if this is the appropriate time in the midst of this global fear to proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen. Those who first witnessed the resurrection offer a response which is timely. The women in Matthew's Gospel who go to the tomb are burdened with disappointment and grief having witnessed his sacrificial death. They are overcome with fear and in that precise moment, they encounter Jesus who says to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Mat 28:10, NRSV) Jesus' response to the women resounds for us today. As we face this pandemic, we are assured not to be afraid and we are called to proclaim Jesus as the Risen Lord in whom our faith is placed.

At the beginning of the celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass, the light of the Paschal Candle is processed into a darkened Church which then quickly becomes bathed in light as the candles people hold are lit from that one flame. This year, we were not able to experience

this with the measures of self-isolation. However, we must not forget this Easter symbol of the risen Christ. Even without this personal experience, the Paschal Candle continues to represent the light of Christ which dispels the darkness and the resurrection of Christ which overcomes sin and death. Our belief in the resurrection is the light of faith which can bring joy and hope in the midst of despair.

This Easter will be for all of us an unsettling and challenging time to celebrate and witness to the joy and hope that is so central to this feast. However, I encourage you to recognize in these times the blessings, graces, and consolations of God which may have been hidden from view in the usual routines of life. With eyes of faith, we see our life experiences as occasions that can draw us closer to God. Sometimes it is clear to us how this happens, and at other moments we wonder how God could possibly use the particular circumstance of our life for His purpose. However, we know from the Saints that God uses these moments to reveal Himself to us.

We always find that those who walked closest to Christ were those who had to bear the greatest trials." St. Teresa of Avila

Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God." St. Francis de Sales

The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." St. Gianna Molla

I encourage you to pray for the grace to see the Risen Christ in the current reality of your lives and to recognize His deep love for each one of us. We will see His presence more profoundly in our homes and our families, in our work and in our outreach to those in need.

This Easter, I invite us to rediscover the symbol and power of our faith as a light which can dispel the darkness that we presently experience. This is what we are called as Christians to proclaim and live.

As an Easter people, let us proclaim the Resurrected Christ knowing that He has brought forth life from death, light from darkness, and hope from despair. As Saint John Paul II says, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

This Easter, in these unusual times, let us find within our faith the sustenance and resolve to proclaim, "He is risen." And we rejoice saying, "Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia." May God bless you with abundant faith, serenity and joy this Easter.

Picture

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary*

It is now possible to make your regular offertory gift online. Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/give> or contact Ria at Holy Family Parish 403-527-6933 ext 4 make a donation by phone or set up monthly automated donations or jst bring in a cheque Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.



**The Faith Room
Chapel is open
Sunday to Friday
9:00am to 4:00pm**