

A Call to Prayer



Vol 28 no. 1 March 2018- Published by The Combined Societies of Mary

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Walk With Mary To Receive Great Blessing 30th Anniversary - Free Mementos For All Who Attend

This is a great milestone. 30 years of such great blessings! Let us all come processing through the main streets of Melbourne honouring our most loving and powerful Mother. For so many the annual Walk With Mary with Holy Mass and then procession is an event not to be missed. It is a deeply moving experience. Two years ago Bishop Lindsay Urwin compared the experience to that of being at one of the main Marian Shrines of the world: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in England.

Having been to Lourdes and taking part in the procession there, one can say that the experience is definitely comparable. There is such a wonderful spirit of prayer and a feeling of grace and blessing.

Perhaps the graces are even greater for processing here in Melbourne. How could this be? you may well ask. It is simple. In Lourdes you are doing what everyone else is doing, and that certainly is good since it was asked by Our Lady Herself, but in Melbourne you are doing something that is counter-cultural. In a community which is overwhelmingly indifferent to God we are witnessing to His presence and His love. Surely we can expect Our loving saviour to honour His promise: "Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven." Come, receive blessings in this life and in the next!



St Patrick's Cathedral Sunday 18th March Commences 2.00 pm with prayer.

Holy Mass 3.00 pm with Bishop Peter Elliott DD MA STD VG EV.

Then Procession through the Streets of Melbourne to St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong

"The Time is Short Before I Come Again"

Jesus in the Gospels told us that we need to stay awake and pray constantly because we do not know the day or the hour when we will depart this world. As Jesus lovingly warned us, "Death comes as a thief in the night".

Bearing in mind these exhortations we should not be too pre-occupied with when Our Lord will come again in His Glory. Nor should we be too pre-occupied with troubling world events. If we are with God then there can be no cause for fear whatsoever. Nevertheless, it is a fact that Jesus told Saint Faustina Kowalska that the time is short in human terms before He comes again, and he said this some eighty years ago. So His Second Coming is very close indeed.

Notwithstanding the fact that we should always be prepared, perhaps this year warrants special attention to our spiritual state of health and to go that little bit extra to ensure that Our Souls are ready to meet our Maker. After all there is nothing better in this world than to be one with God.

We have a wonderful opportunity to do all that this year with a marvellous priest Fr Paul Bernacki coming out to lead us in a wonderful Novena and Feast to the Divine Mercy. Father Paul is Polish but is joining us from Paris for this unique event. Father has spent time serving in English speaking countries and has excellent English.

Please do join us at the Novena and Feast to receive a whole outpouring of grace as promised by Jesus Christ: By this novena I will grant unimaginable graces. Then do come on Divine Mercy Sunday, that special day on which Jesus promises the cleansing of all sin and punishment by going to confession and Holy Communion. This cleansing is a great gift, and has been described as comparable only to the grace of baptism. The first class relics of St John Paul II and St Faustina can be venerated after the Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday.



Free Newsletter



The Annunciation

What a tremendous joy is associated with the Annunciation. The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates the wondrous event when Mary was visited by the Archangel Gabriel, and Our Lady accepted the invitation to become the Mother of God.

We cannot imagine the divine ecstasy of Our Lady as She was enveloped by the Holy Spirit and Our Lord Jesus Christ became incarnate in Her virginal womb.

How spectacular to be visited by an Angel. But let us not forget that we too are blessed by God by all the divine inspirations He places in our heart to do good, to avoid evil, and to grow in the spiritual life. Unfortunately we are not always responsive to the Divine Grace as was Mary.

Perhaps it would be fruitful for us to consider the attitude of Mary that allowed Her to be such a willing participant in the divine plan. There are several virtues that shine forth in the life of the Virgin Mary. Firstly, there is Her angelic purity: "how can this come about since I am a virgin." Many consider this to be a sign of Her divinely inspired intention to remain a virgin throughout her life irrespective of her betrothal to Joseph.

We recall the words of Her Son in the beatitudes, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." Saint Teresa of Calcutta would comment that the pure of heart see God here and now. They see God in creation and feel His presence always.

In this world of promiscuity it would be most worthwhile to strive afresh for that state of purity of heart that is willed by God and pleasing to God. Perhaps a useful starting point would be to acknowledge that this oversexed culture of ours is totally abhorrent to God. Perhaps it would be useful for us to remember that God is calling us to purity of heart, soul and mind. He does this not so that He can impose restrictions on us. He does this so that we can enjoy the fullness of life now in this world and in the world to come, since only the pure of heart can see God.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae. How right the Church got it back in the 1960's. Contraception is the greatest single threat to Western Civilisation. We have the aging population and a demographic time bomb in so many countries. The contraceptive mentality created a generation of pleasure seekers with no responsibility. Surely there is a strong correlation between the rise of a contraceptive mentality and the rise of abortion and marital breakup. How wise the Church is in her moral teachings, and how wise we will be to also pay head to those same life giving teachings.

The Second most notable quality of Mary is her humility. How beautiful is her lowly reply: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto Me according to Your will." It is a joyous response and a trustful response. We would do very well to strive to emulate the humility of Our Lady. Modern man tends to be so proud so boastful. How sad it is that man tries to usurp God and so easily becomes puffed up with pride and vainglory. Pride separates us from God. We would do well to consider that anything that is good in the universe originates from God.

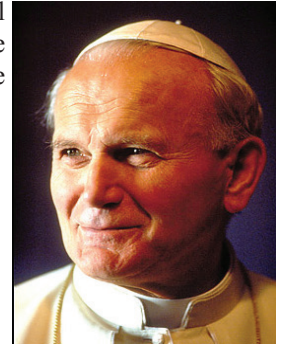
Her humility allowed for the most wonderful quality of Mary, that being Her unity with the Most Holy Trinity. To have always been filled with the presence of God from the first moments of Her Conception. All her virtues stem from this fact.

Reading the above considerations, however poor they may be, one perhaps nevertheless may feel from within the desire to attain some of the virtues of Our Lady. Well interestingly enough that is one of Her central roles: to dispense graces to God's faithful. How sad and ignorant are the modern reductions of Our Lady to that of simply being a model disciple. Yes she is that indeed, but she is much more than that. The great St Alphonsus would say that Christ is the head of the Church, Mary is the neck. In other words all graces flow to us through Mary. This view is consistent with what has been revealed in several Marian Apparitions but perhaps none more explicitly than at the Rue de Bac to St Catherine Labouré where, with arms outstretched, graces streamed forth. Mary told St Catherine that many graces went begging because no one prayed for them.

So today let us renew our love and devotion to the great Mother of God. Let us ask Her to take us as Her dear child, bestowing upon us all the richness of grace contained in Her soul. A starting point would be to ask her for the gift of purity, humility, love of God, and love of others. Perhaps it would be nice to ask Her to grant us special insights into the Divine Mysteries, and especially at this time, the wonderful mystery of the Annunciation.

Pope John Paul II First Class Relic in Melbourne For Divine Mercy Feast

Pope John Paul II loved the devotion to the Mercy of God. He said, **"Right from the beginning of my ministry in St. Peter's See in Rome, I considered this message**



my special task." In 1997 at the tomb of Saint Faustina, **"The message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me..., in a sense it forms the image of my Pontificate."**

In 2000 he declared the Feast of Mercy to be a feast for the universal Church, and finally he expired, going to his eternal reward, on the vigil of the Feast of Mercy in 2005. At the Combined Societies of Mary Feast of Divine Mercy, St John Paul II's relic will be available for private veneration. He is a special and powerful Saint. Let us pray for his intercession.

Walk With Mary Help?

We are in need of help on Sunday, 18th March at the Walk With Mary and we require:

- *Marshals
- *Children as flower strewers
- *Ushers
- *A choir or singers for the procession
- *prayer groups, prayers and participants
- *Ethnic groups with icons and banners
- *And many to pray for the success of this unique celebration of love for Our Mother

India Mission January 2018

A team of four visited India this last December/January and visited two large dioceses. The missions were conducted in new areas in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. During our time we visited schools, convents, parishes, shrines and seminaries. Well over 100,000 leaflets and holy cards were distributed to those who heard the talks. We thank all who have helped, or prayed for, or contributed in any way towards the success of this mission. Fr John also expresses his heartfelt gratitude for all who have assisted with medication for his illness. The travel was difficult for him, but he nevertheless did an excellent job in preparing the programmes and translations.

The talks were very well received with very large numbers in attendance.





The Divine Mercy Devotion

This is an extremely beautiful message for our time. Jesus came to Saint Faustina, in the 1930's. At the command of her confessors she wrote a diary. This diary was examined for some ten years by Theologians at the Vatican, who concluded that it is one of the greatest spiritual writings that the Church possesses.

A key aspect of the devotion is the **five powerful gifts** that Jesus is giving to the world as part of this preparation.

1. The Image

Sister Faustina recorded in her diary the revelations made by Jesus regarding the image: **"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already on earth, especially at the hour of death. I will defend it as My own glory"** (48)

The signature on the bottom of the image reads, **"Jesus I trust in You."**

The Novena COMMENCES MARCH 30TH

Jesus promised Sr Faustina:
"By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls."
Do come and join us over these nine nights at Holy Cross Church Caulfield South, starting on Good Friday and culminating with the Feast of Divine Mercy. Do expect the Lord to grant incredible graces to you, in proportion to the trust you place in Him.

2. The Feast of Mercy Sunday 8th April

Jesus said: **"I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of My 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 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 (on

Divine Mercy Sunday) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened." (Diary 699) Confessions will be available on the day from 1.00pm.

3. The Chaplet of Mercy

Jesus Himself promises: **"Through the chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My Will."** (Diary 1731) The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of death. (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."

Jesus informed her: **"Through the Chaplet you are bringing mankind closer to Me."** (Diary 929)

4. The Hour of Great Mercy

Jesus said, **"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners, and if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world... In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion...."**(Diary 1320)

"You can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world – mercy triumphed over justice. (Diary 1572)

5. To Those Who Spread This Devotion

"Souls who spread the honour of My mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Saviour."

A Unique Opportunity

Never before has there been such an urgent need to rediscover the beautiful devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Jesus wanted this devotion to be an enormous source of grace for all souls. In its establishment the aim of consoling Jesus is prominent. Why does Jesus need consolation? He needs consolation for the almost countless followers who have deserted Him and who no longer practice the faith. He also needs consolation for the many who wound His Heart by receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist without paying Him any attention. How sad for Our Loving Saviour.

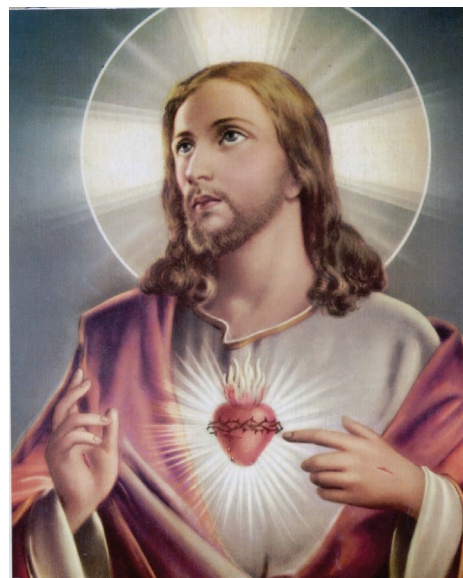
The First Friday Devotions have an extremely important part to play in the Divine Plan. We all know how powerful novenas are. Especially when they have been asked for by Jesus Himself, as is the case with the First Friday Novena.

We are pleased to announce a very special grace.

All those who complete the Nine First Friday Novena this year 2018 at St Joseph's Parish Elsternwick will have their family's names engraved on a magnificent silver votive heart that will be offered at the sanctuary in Paray Le Monial,

where it will reside at the very place where Our Lord appeared to St Margaret Mary. **We encourage everyone** to take part in this very special Novena. It starts at 7.00pm and concludes by 8.30pm with adoration, Holy Mass and prayers from St Margaret Mary herself, including the powerful Novena Prayer. As you spread the word recall the promise of Jesus- **"Those**

who spread this devotion will have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced."



A Call to Prayer, March 2018



Why Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

At Fatima our Lady explained that Almighty God wanted us to become more devoted to Her Immaculate Heart. We may be asking why this is the case.

Firstly we could note that Our Lady has a tender Heart. Simeon spoke of the sword that would pierce Her Soul. The sword was able to pierce Her Soul because Her Heart is full of tenderness and compassion. In many of Our Lady's approved apparitions such as Akita and Siracuse, and La Salette our Lady wept since Her Heart is sensitive to sin.

We may well ask the reason for Her tears. She cries because She loves us. She truly is our mother. When Jesus gave Her to the apostle John at the foot of the cross, "...behold your Mother," Jesus really did give Her the task of caring for us and for humanity. As souls move away from God She weeps, because She loves us with a love greater than we can imagine. She weeps when she sees the damage sin does to our souls. She grieves terribly when the life of grace is lost in souls. Then how do we think She feels when ungrateful men spurn Her and attack Her in their thoughts and words. Is not God Himself offended by this? He is offended greatly and we need to make reparation to Our Lady and to God.

That is why Our Lady, at Fatima asked for the five first Saturdays of Reparation for blasphemies against Her Immaculate Heart. She stated that "This is asked by God the Father to honour my Immaculate Heart. He is greatly pleased by this, for you are also paying homage to Him in this way."

Our Lady promises special blessings for all those who do the Five First Saturdays according to Her directives: "I Promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation."

So just what are the things that Our Lady asks us to do on the First Saturdays: 1 Confession.

2. Meditate (not recite) for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary.

3. Recite the Rosary.

All of the above are to be offered for the following intention: In reparation for the blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Please do participate in the First Saturday devotions where all of these are available and practices: please note the details in the right side column "First Saturdays."

Coming Events

Each Month First Fridays 2 Venues

St. Augustine's Church, 631 Bourke Street City

1.05 pm Mass, Adoration, Prayers to the Sacred Heart, Chaplet of Mercy

St Joseph's Church 71 Orrong Road Elsternwick

7.00 pm Adoration, Prayers to the Sacred Heart, Chaplet of Mercy

Confessions Holy Mass

Every First Friday throughout the whole year

First Saturdays Mass and Devotions

As Requested by Our Lady of Fatima

De La Salle Chapel 1312 High St Malvern

9.45 am to 11.30 am Adoration, Prayers, Confession, Holy Mass

Sunday 18th March

Walk With Mary 30th Anniversary

St Patrick's Cathedral

2 pm Prayers, Holy Mass Procession to St Paul's Cathedral, Evensong
Bishop Peter Elliott DD MA STD VG EV, and an Anglican Bishop to be announced

30th March to 8th April

Divine Mercy Novena and Feast

Holy Cross Church 707 Glenhuntly Road

Caulfield South Trams 64 stop 57, Tram 67 stop 50

7.00pm Each Evening from Good Friday 30th March.

The Novena Concludes Saturday Evening 7th April

Feast of Mercy Sunday 8th April

1.00 pm Confession and Rosary, 1.30 pm Exposition and Prayers

3.00 pm Hour of Great Mercy, Holy Mass, Veneration of Holy Relics.

There is a large car park at the Rear of Holy Cross Church via Murray Street

Sunday 13th May

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

St Colman's Balaclava

2pm Adoration, Prayers, Detailed Account of Apparitions,

Confessions, Procession, Holy Mass,

293 Carlisle Street Trams 3, 3A, 16 stop 39 Parking at the Rear of Church