



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

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Acting Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke

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Acting Priest: Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
Divine Mercy Sunday 19 th April	09:30 18:00	Mass in Private -Mary & Edward Murphy Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated
Monday 20 th April	09:00	Mass in private for all Heath Workers
Tuesday 21 st April	19:30	Mass in private for all students and young people
Wednesday 22 nd April	09:00	Mass in private for All died from COVID 19
Thursday 23 rd April	19:00	Mass in private for all suffering from COVID 19
Friday 24 th April	19.00	Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish
Saturday 25 th April	10:00	Mass in private for Government and policy makers
Sunday 26 th April	09:30 18:00	Mass in Private – Cecilia Michael Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated

Offertory (collections): Normal weekend collections cannot be taken under current circumstances. While recognising that this is a very difficult time financially for many people, others may still wish to continue their regular Sunday donations, if they are not already using the envelopes or standing order facilities. Donations may be sent to the Parish even through standing order. We do not receive any financial support from the Diocese, and other important activities like letting out the hall for community use have ceased, while our expenditure remains effectively the same.

Mass Suspension Information

COVID 19: If you or someone you know in the parish is self-isolating and is in need of any support, such as help with shopping or a chat on the phone, please get in touch with the Parish Office: Email: sacredheartchurch.oxford@gmail.com Phone: 01865 776903 or 01865 762964. **Corpus Christi Parish in Headington will continue to be live streaming weekday and Sunday Mass, and more details can be found at <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk>. Also, you can please visit the parish website: <https://sacredheartoxford.com>. <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>**

SUNDAY REFLECTION

On this Second Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to contemplate the mercy of God. We experience this Divine Mercy very tangibly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in Grace - the unmerited favour, the gratuitous gift which God gives to us out of His compassion and merciful love.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives authority to his disciples to forgive sins saying, **"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."**

This is a Divine power given to his disciples and handed down to his Church and to all priests. Nevertheless, it is God who really gives pardon and peace. The priest who is Alter Christus - who takes the place of Jesus Christ - absolves in the name of the Church, that is, he frees the penitent from guilt and blame. This teaching is still maintained in the formula of absolution that the priest utters during the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

"God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This is a wonderful possibility available in the Sacrament of Reconciliation: 'the visible sign of God's invisible mercy.'

On this feast then, let us resolve to make frequent confession – good, sincere & open confession - and experience God's Divine mercy.

On his second appearance to his disciples, after his typical greeting of **"Peace be with you,"** Jesus showed them his wounds while exhorting Thomas to a greater faith: **"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."** Today's Gospel thus is also an exhortation to us *'to believe without seeing.'* He ends by sending them on his mission to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Today, as we celebrate **"Divine Mercy Sunday"** and joyfully proclaim - **"I WILL SING OF THE MERCIES OF THE LORD..."** Let us remember that the message behind the Upper Room appearance is that Jesus wants the disciples to know that his Church is founded on forgiveness and thus, she has a mission to bring about peace and reconciliation through the preaching of repentance and forgiveness. May God's mercy be invoked upon the world at this critical time as we pray for all suffering due to COVID-19.

Masses will be celebrated each day privately by the parish clergy for your intentions. New Mass intention should be send to sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com.

Intercessions for 19th April 2020 Divine Mercy Sunday

The prayers below can be used to aid our spiritual reflection over the coming week. As we celebrate the Risen Lord, in these very difficult times, we turn humbly to him in hope and place the needs of the Church and the World into his loving care.

Leader: On this blessed day, we rejoice in Christ's Resurrection which is our Redemption from sin and death. Let us turn to him and pray for the Church and the world.

Reader: We pray for the Church: for our Pope, for our bishops, all priests and religious – that they will be filled with Easter joy, and be renewed in faith and hope. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for our church community that we may all walk in the light of Easter and bring the light of Christ into the world. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for the poor around the world; for all the countries of the world suffering from the Corona Virus pandemic that we may soon see an end to its spread and the suffering it has brought in its wake. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We also pray for those who are very ill, including those who suffer from the Corona Virus whether in hospital, care homes or elsewhere. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all medical staff, carers and others who provide essential services for others. Please guard and protect them, and their families, O Lord, and inspire and guide them to carry out your work. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all families in this time of isolation at home. May they be inspired to use this time as an opportunity to grow closer in prayer together. **Lord in your mercy ...**

We pray for those who are in serious financial need in the current economic situation. May those in our communities who have plenty be guided by the Lord to reach out to those in need. **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for all who have died, that God will comfort their loved ones, and open the gates of heaven to them. **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our own intentions. We turn to Our Lady Queen of Heaven and ask her intercession and say **Hail Mary ...**