

## Easter Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 Divine Mercy Sunday



### A meditation based on 1 Peter 1:3-9 Rejoice

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. It's a special day for us to reflect on and rejoice in the merciful love God has for us. It's an opportunity for us to celebrate the eternal inheritance Jesus has won for us, an inheritance that is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:4)

We all know what mercy looks like. It's the judge who knows you are guilty but pardons you anyway. It's the mother who has caught you in a lie but forgives you. It's Jesus saying, "Your sins are forgiven .... Go in peace" (Luke 7:48,50). It's the mercy that brings you "an indescribable and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1:8).

The Old Testament tells us about God's merciful love. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, he promised to show mercy to everyone who loves him and obeys his word (Exodus 20:6). King David sang about the Lord who "pardons," "heals," and "redeems" us because he is "merciful and gracious" (Psalm 103:3,4,8). Even the prophets, who regularly spoke about doom and destruction for the "rebel Israel," also recalled God's desire to pour his merciful love on his people (Isaiah 63:9; Jeremiah 3:12; Hosea 14:3; Micah 7:18).

The teaching of God's merciful love shines even brighter in the Gospels. It runs through every one of Jesus' parables, miracles, and teachings, until it reaches its climax on the cross, when he prays. "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34).

Pause for a moment and picture God's merciful love flowing into you. See yourself as the imperfect, sinful person you know you are. Now, see Jesus washing you clean and embracing you.

If we were to forget about God's mercy, the guilt and shame of our sins would weigh heavily on us. If we were to forget that we are sinners in need of mercy, we would risk being blinded by our sins and unable to enjoy God's wonderful fountain of merciful love. May we never forget May we always rejoice!

Pray ..... "Jesus, I rejoice in your mercy! Help me become an instrument of your mercy to the people around me"