

The rays are the source of life not death and also a symbol of the life that comes to us through the Holy Spirit.

What else can we see? The image represents the paschal mystery. On Holy Thursday the priesthood was initiated, Jesus is dressed as a High Priest. On Good Friday Jesus was crucified; in the image we see the wounds of His crucifixion.

On Easter Sunday the Lord was raised from the dead, in the image we see Christ here as resurrected. 40 Days later, Jesus ascended into heaven; in the image we see His hand raised in the form of blessing which he would've given before rising to the Father. On the 50th day we have the Descent of the Holy Spirit; in the image we have the rays coming forth, this is the Holy Spirit. In summary therefore, the whole paschal mystery is here.

We also notice in the image that Jesus Himself Divine Mercy Incarnate is piercing the darkness and gloom of our dark age with His saving light and rays of mercy.

In Divine Mercy, God's love is put into action—notice that Jesus is walking towards us. He is coming to us.

VENERATION OF THE IMAGE—CHURCH AND HOME

We can venerate the Image of the Merciful Jesus, the Divine Mercy, by gazing upon it in prayer and adoration. Increasing in trust and mercy.

If you wish further information contact Geraldine 01978 357367

Recommended Websites

The Marian Fathers of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception have been promoting Divine Mercy since 1941. Their website is a wealth of information www.thedivinemercy.org. Look especially at divine mercy matters.

DIVINE MERCY NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to our first monthly publication of the Divine Mercy Newsletter. The purpose of which is to help spread devotion to Divine Mercy by basically explaining the practice of the new forms of devotions to the Divine Mercy that Jesus gave through St Faustina. We will focus on one at a time until the Feast of Divine Mercy 2024.

There are many resources available to help us discover much more of the Message of Divine Mercy—books, films, websites and talks set up by religious congregations whose mission it is to promote the Divine Mercy throughout the world. This little newsletter will draw mainly from the Diary of St Faustina “Divine Mercy in My Soul” allowing Jesus and his Secretary of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina to do the talking. All **writings in bold print** are the **words of Jesus as recorded by St Faustina**.

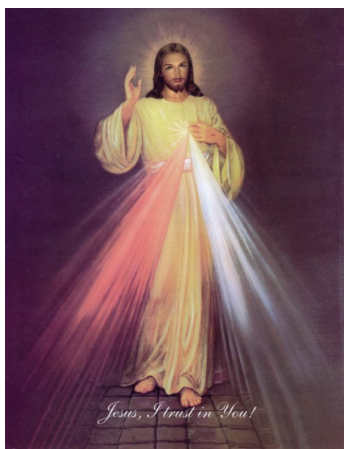
The foundation of the devotion to the Divine Mercy is **Trust in God** and **Mercy towards others**. The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves all of us and He wants us to know that His mercy is greater than our sins so that we will approach Him with great trust, receive His mercy and then let it flow through us to others. St Faustina writes: Today, I heard these words, **“Under the Old Covenant I sent prophets to My people with thunderbolts. Today, I am sending you with My mercy to the whole of mankind. I do not want to punish anguished humankind, I want to heal it, pressing it close to My merciful Heart. (Diary 1588)**

“Mankind shall not find peace and contentment until it turns with trust unto my Mercy. O, how much I am hurt by the disbelief of souls. Such a soul admits that I am holy and just, but does not believe that I am mercy; it does not fully trust in My goodness. Even the evil spirits praise my justice, but they do not believe in my goodness. (Diary 300)

The five elements of the devotion are The Image, The Feast of Mercy, The Chaplet, the Novena and the Hour of Mercy. Each element has attached to it some of the most powerful and extraordinary promises of any devotion.

THE IMAGE OF THE MERCIFUL JESUS

More Commonly known as **THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE**



St Faustina writes

22 February 1931. In the evening when I was in my cell I saw Jesus clothed in a white robe. One of His hands was raised in a gesture of blessing, and with the other He was touching the robe on His chest. There were two big rays, one red and the other pale, emerging from a fold in the robe on His chest. I fixed my gaze on the Lord in silence, my soul was overawed but also full of joy. After a while Jesus said to me, **"Make a picture of this image in the form that you see, with the inscription *Jesus, I trust in You*. I want this picture venerated first in your chapel, and in the whole world."** (Diary 47)

"I promise that the soul that venerates this picture shall not perish. I also promise it victory over its enemies, already here on Earth, and especially in the hour of death. I Myself shall protect it as my glory." (Diary 48)

This is a very powerful promise.

As we can see, the rays are the characteristic feature of this image of Jesus. St Faustina was told by her confessor to ask Jesus what the two rays stood for; she writes

Once when my confessor told me to ask Jesus what the two rays in the painting stood for, I said that I'd ask. During prayer, I heard these words interiorly

"The two rays stand for blood and water. The pale ray stands for the water which justifies souls; and the red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls."

"These two rays emerged from the innermost depth of My mercy when My dying heart was opened up on the cross by the spear."

"These rays protect souls from My Father's anger. Happy is he who shall live in their shadow, for the just hand of God shall not reach him. I want the first Sunday after Easter to be the Feast of Mercy." (Diary 299)

St Faustina was very disappointed with the painting, she writes

One day, when I was visiting the painter who is painting the picture and saw that it was not as beautiful as Jesus is, I became very sad, but hid my disappointment deep in my heart. When we left the painter's studio, Mother Superior stayed in the city to settle some business, and I went home on my own. Straightaway I went into the chapel and cried my heart out. I said to the Lord, "Who's going to paint You as beautiful as You are?" Then I heard these words, **"It is not the beauty of the paint nor of the brush, but My grace that makes this painting great."** (Diary 313)

One day, Jesus said to me, **"My gaze from this picture is like My gaze from the cross."** (Diary 326)

As we can see from these quotes, the Image is very important and is a great gift to humankind. It is not a work of religious art but a Divine vessel which Jesus describes as "I am giving people a vessel with which they are to come to the fount of mercy for graces. That vessel is the picture with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You." (Diary 327)

There are a number of Images in the world today, the one that is distributed most widely is the Hyla image. This is hung in the convent of the Sisters of the Congregation of Mother of Mercy, St Faustina's order, and also hangs in our parish church.