

## The Regina caeli

(said in place of the Angelus during Eastertide: (Easter Sunday – Pentecost Sunday))

**V. Oh Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.**

**R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.**

**V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.**

**R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.**

**R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.**

Let us pray.

**O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*He Is Risen! Alleluia!*

### English Speaking Mission office:

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Office hours

Tuesdays/Wednesdays 8:30-12:30- (Secretary) Thursday/Friday 10:00- 14:00 (Priest)



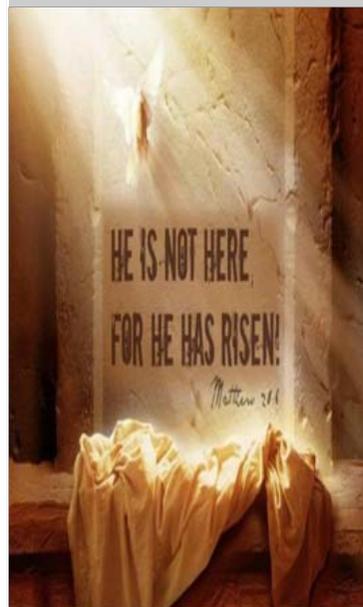
English speaking Catholic Mission Archdiocese of Berlin

## Sunday Bulletin

April 8, 2018

**Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

**Missal no. 828**



### First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35*

The first Christian Community shared their Possessions and no one was in Need

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-35*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

### Second Reading

1 John 5:1-6

Those who love God keep his commandments

### Gospel Reading

*John 20:19-31*

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus

Collection is for

**OUR MISSION**

**Next Sunday, April 15, Confirmation Mass at 11:00 at St. Bernard's by Archbishop Dr. Heiner Koch**

**As we are expecting a very large crowd, please consider attending 7 pm Mass at the same location if you do not need to be at the 11 am Mass.**

## Background on the Gospel Reading John 20:19-31

This Sunday is also called the Divine Mercy Sunday. We remember the dedication of this day by St. John Paul II in honor to St. Faustina's vision of Christ in which the Lord's Heart radiated forth with rays of divine Mercy for the world. Mercy designates the suffering of the heart, a type of compassion, a deep, loving identification with people in their suffering. St. Augustine formulated a wonderful phrase that expresses this wonderfully: "*Misericordia et misera*" *Mercy and misery*. That means mercy and misery always go hand in hand. This is a beautiful or apt way of expressing the mystery of God's love when it touches a sinner. Mercy is what Love looks like when it turns towards a sinner. God is love and he looks at a sinner with Mercy.

Today's Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. He then commissions them to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. At the core of this mission is God's Mercy through which the profound truths of the Gospel are made manifest and tangible. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others. This is the path we are called to follow.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

## Confirmation Retreat

Saturday, April 14, 2018 - 09:30

The Confirmation Retreat will take place at St. Bernard's between 9:30 and 16:30 h on April 14th.

The day will include the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the candidates and a rehearsal.

Sponsors are warmly encouraged to come to the rehearsal, starting at 15:30 h.



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- April 16th Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's at 20:00
- April 21st Scripture Study of the Eucharist at 16:00 at St. Bernard's
- April 29th Children's Liturgy of the Word -St. Bernard's 11:00
- May 10th Ascension Thursday, Mass at St. Bernard's at 19:00
- May 11th -18th Pentecost Novena at St. Bernard's organized by Charismatic Renewal St. Elisabeth
- May 13th - First Holy Communion- 1200 at St. Elisabeth,
- May 20th Children's Liturgy at St. Bernard's
- May 21st Hearts A fire- Intergenerational Event (GIMN) on Pentecost at St. Elisabeth's Church Hall
- May 27th-- First Holy Communion at 11:am at St. Bernard's
- May 31st, Corpus Christi with Procession at Gendanmarkt Berlin (1st communion children are specially invited)
- June 16th - Child's protection course in English at St. Bernard's 10:30-16:30

### **General Information about the English-speaking Mission**

- Our mission offers pastoral care for immigrants, religious education, catechism classes for 1st Holy Communion and confirmation, preparation for baptism (infants and adults) and marriage courses. Hospital and home visits can be arranged through the mission's office or the priests. For weddings please contact Father Sylvester Ajunwa 3 months in advance.
- Sunday Masses: St. Bernard's - 11h , 19h; St. Elisabeth's 12:h All Saints-10h ; Catholic Academy-10h30
- Confession: Sundays - 12.h, 18h30 - 19h, at St. Bernard's; 14h at St. Elisabeth; Friday 17h30 at All Saints
- Eucharistic Adoration at St. Bernard's 1st and 3rd Mondays 20h-21h

**-For more information visit our website: [www.english-mission-berlin.de](http://www.english-mission-berlin.de)**