

Wednesday 6th October 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the feast day of St Bruno. I was ordained a Deacon on the feast day of St Bruno, but since he is renowned for being austere penitential, that's where our commonality ends!

Yesterday was the feast of St Faustina Kowalska, who we know from the Divine Mercy devotion. I recommend to you a slow reading of her diary. On almost every page is inspiration for our devotional life. Three impressions to share with you today of her diary. Firstly, just like with St Catherine of Sienna for instance, Our Lord often tells St Faustina just how much consolation He receives from her prayers, her faithfulness and her loving devotion towards Him. We too can console the Heart of Jesus when we wholeheartedly desire to love Him and do His will. Secondly, the cloistered life of St Faustina is still directed towards the good of others- the salvation of souls. At one point Our Lord gives St Faustina a vision of a large ciborium full of hosts which was symbolic of all the souls she had recently saved. Thirdly, and following on from that, Our Lord also often says how all the great graces He gives to St Faustina are not just for her but for all the other people that He will reach through her and her diary. That is a good lesson for us too and should keep us humble when receiving great graces from God. PS At one point Our Lord even says, "you are to prepare the world for my Second Coming."

Tomorrow is the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary. This feast was originally called Our Lady of Victories, commemorating the naval victory over the Ottoman fleet in 1571. It's an extraordinary story I encourage you to research. It was one of the most important battles that shaped history. Christian Europe was divided due to the 'Reformation' and the Islamic Ottoman Empire was pushing into Europe. The Venetian navy was strong in defending against the Ottomans, but they were growing weary and needed help when the Ottoman's began an offensive campaign. The Ottoman's were strong and if they took the Venetian Islands, Europe was in serious danger. Pope St Pius V called on all Catholics to pray the rosary for victory. Don Juan of Austria led the naval fleet to victory, and many ships sailed under the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe who had recently appeared in South America. From this Europe strengthened and the Ottoman Empire began to decline.

The feast of Our Lady of Rosary is also a special day for Our Lady of Fatima Parish as Mary told the children that she was "Our Lady of the Rosary." No doubt to stress the importance of praying the rosary, but also to remind us also that "in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples, astonished, say to one another, "In that case who can be saved?" and Jesus replies, "For men it is impossible, but not for God: for God all things are possible." One take away from that exchange is to always practise gratitude to God for all we have and all He has done for us. We don't deserve any of

it. It is 'impossible' for us to be saved on our own efforts and our own merits. It was not because God is *just* that He created us, holds us in existence and saves us, but because He of His *mercy*. Mercy is God's greatest attribute. And as He said to St Faustina, He is currently giving us a time where He is especially merciful to us if we turn to Him. So let us pray the words of the Divine image, believing that for Him all things are possible, "Jesus, I trust in you!"

Fr John Paul Mount