

Homily on Divine Mercy and the Memorial of Pope Francis > 27th April, 2025

Today, we come together in prayer and reflection, honoring the great mystery of Divine Mercy and remembering the life of Pope Francis, who, with his deep faith and commitment to Christ, left a profound impact on the Church and the world. His passing is a moment of profound sorrow, but also one of great hope, as we reflect on the themes of mercy, faith, and eternal life.

The Feast of Divine Mercy, instituted by Saint John Paul II, invites us to meditate on God's infinite mercy. This devotion calls us to recognize that no matter how great our sins, God's mercy is greater. It is a mercy that reaches beyond human understanding, a mercy that heals, restores, and transforms. As we contemplate the image of the Divine Mercy, we see Jesus extending His hand in loving compassion, inviting us to trust in His boundless grace. "Jesus, I trust in You," these simple words echo the call to surrender ourselves to God's love and mercy, embracing His forgiveness.

Pope Francis, throughout his papacy, lived out this message of mercy. His ministry was one of care for the poor, the sick, and the marginalized. His teachings on mercy were not just words but actions, as he emphasized the need for the Church to be a welcoming and compassionate place for all, especially those most in need. Pope Francis reminded us that mercy is not merely a theological concept, but a concrete expression of God's love in our everyday lives.

As we remember the historic reality of the death of Pope Francis and yesterday's funeral, we reflect now, not only on his words but on the legacy of mercy that he left behind. His tireless work to bring the love of Christ to the world, his call to build a "culture of mercy," and his own personal humility and devotion to God serve as a beacon for us all. In his life, Pope Francis embodied what it means to live with the heart of a shepherd - caring for his flock, reaching out to those on the margins, and witnessing the Gospel with joy and hope.

We may feel sorrow at his passing, but we also recognize that he has entered into the eternal embrace of God's mercy. In death, as in life, Pope Francis showed us that we are always held in God's merciful hands. It is this trust in Divine Mercy that we cling to in moments of loss. We take comfort in the words of Jesus, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). Pope Francis, now fully embraced by God's mercy, shows us the fruits of living a life of compassion and love.

As we celebrate this Feast of Divine Mercy, let us ask for the strength to live out that mercy in our own lives. Let us be people who extend mercy to those who hurt us, who reach out to the brokenhearted, and who seek forgiveness when we fall short. In remembering Pope Francis, we are reminded that the heart of a Christian is one that beats with mercy - a mercy that is unbounded, unending, and overflowing.

May Pope Francis intercede for us, and may we all come to trust more deeply in the mercy of God, knowing that in Him, there is no end to forgiveness and grace.