



The Angels

Messengers from a loving God



The Relic stone and scapular

The language of gratitude

Encountering St Michael

How to pray the Rosary effectively

Mother of Africa

Strong arm of my guardian angel



Saint Michael belongs to the choir of the archangels which is one of the lowest choirs by nature, but because of his outstanding zeal for the glory of God at the time of Satan's rebellion he merited such glory and power that he excelled through grace to the level of angels that belong to the much higher choirs by nature.

There is a war described in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation. This is a war carried out against a woman and her child by the Dragon and his angels. That woman represents in the first place the Church, but in a symbolic sense Mary. St Michael took part in this battle and finally the dragon was cast out. A dragon symbolises the Devil.

St Michael never ceases to wage war against his and our enemy. Saints encourage us to pray to him and to be under his protection. For example, St Francis de Sales wrote, "Veneration of St Michael is the greatest remedy against despising the rights of God, against subordination, scepticism and infidelity". That is why when we feel strong temptations and we tend to give into them, we should turn to St Michael the Archangel and ask him for help.

St Michael was the protector and defender of God's chosen people. Now he is the defender of the Church. He is invoked in sickness and most especially at the hour of death.

He appeared at different times to those who needed help and implored his aid. Several apparitions have been recorded during the Christian centuries. For example, St Michael showed himself to the shepherd and to the bishop of Siponto, on Monte Gargano in Italy. In this apparition he intimated to the bishop that the place was under his protection and it was his will that God should be worshiped there, in honour of himself and the angels and that this place would be the place of reconciliation. And this promise has been fulfilled. The Shrine to St Michael attracts many pilgrims and when they enter this place of worship, many have a great desire to go to confession, even though they did not think about it beforehand.

I assure you of the constant daily prayers of the priests of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel for all our readers and their families.

God bless you,

Fr **Peter Prusakiewicz** CSMA
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Messengers from a loving God

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The language of gratitude

We now spend more and more of our free time travelling, often abroad. At the same time, we no longer need to travel in order to experience different places and people for the world comes to us and we experience a range of cultures on our own doorstep.



My recent experience with a person of a different culture and mentality made me realise certain things. While carrying out a particular transaction, I dealt initially with an individual from Poland, who approached the matter very efficiently, but when it came to establishing the terms of our transaction, turned out to be very critical and judgemental, so much so that the conversation at times became quite disagreeable. Carrying out a similar transaction a number of weeks later, this time with a person from another country, it felt as if I encountered an entirely new world. For this particular person (who dealt with the matter just as efficiently as the first), the terms of our transaction were clear, obvious and entirely justified. But that is not what was significant in this instance. Above all, I encountered an openness and courtesy in the way she spoke to me. The conversation, in English, (a foreign language for both interlocutors) proved no barrier to treating both the people involved and the matter in hand with respect. I saw how the very same matter could be approached with a very different attitude and conclusion. Much depends on what attitude we choose to have to other people.

Analysing this situation, I came to the conclusion that differences do not depend on the outward ways in which

we communicate with another person, but on our different approaches to life. The first person I spoke with, critical and demanding, had faced difficult experiences in the recent past. The second person, on the other hand, radiated a sense of gratitude and peace which was easily communicated to others. I then recalled the words of St Paul: *“And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful”* (Colossians, 3:15). I won’t cast judgement on whether this difference arises from our Polish trait of incessant complaining, always seeing the glass as half empty. That’s not the point. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the same for every believer. So the words of St Paul are for each of us a call to a heavenly way of life – filled with peace and gratitude. That is our daily task.

In his meditation on 31 August 1867, Fr Bronisław Markiewicz wrote of the need to develop our sense of thankfulness to God for making himself known to us. This, to Blessed Bronisław, was a matter of fundamental importance in moments of doubt. For it, that is, for moments of meeting with God, he gave everything: *“Infallible truth – may I come to know you. Even if I were to glimpse you but for a moment and then die. I would happily give up health and even life, if only I could do away with this terrible uncertainty and inner struggle. God, reveal yourself, if you exist. Let me*

know the Truth. I will strive with all the strength I possess to follow this Truth and will not go aside from it by a single step. I am prepared for every possible humiliation. With gratitude I will do everything, I have bound myself to such gratitude – for eternity – to be granted one glimpse of the Truth. You, Lord, have bestowed (Your gifts) so abundantly.”

Fr Markiewicz wished to pledge his whole life in thanksgiving in exchange for one glimpse of God and awareness of Him. St Paul reminds us, that a person who is redeemed by the blood of Christ has good reason for gratitude in every circumstance, as there is nothing on this earth as valuable as our redemption.

When we are strong and have the impression that we control our own destiny, such thanksgiving comes harder to us. Our hearts feel it much more easily when we experience our dependence on God and others. In fact, we are just as dependent at every moment of our lives, but don’t generally pay this fact much attention. The gratitude and thanksgiving of which the Apostle Paul speaks, is a joyful task, as it expresses our trust in God’s care for us in each and every situation with complete inner equanimity. It is a conscious entrustment of our inner self to God in every circumstance of life and a testimony of Christ’s peace which we give to others.

Joanna Krzywonos

Encountering St Michael

The devotion to saints in the Catholic Church has been a common practice for many centuries. The lives and teachings of particular saints not only helps us understand God's plan for them, but also provides good examples of how we, too, may follow Jesus closely in our own lives.

There are saints we have heard of but, don't know much about: St Joseph, for example, or the Good Thief or the whole legions of angels. How does one describe St Michael the Archangel? I think we need to accept the fact that we cannot present the spiritual being in a traditional hagiographic way. Such facts as the date of birth, the place of living, the occupation or the place of his relics do not refer to him.

Fortunately, we may find some information about angels in the Bible where their personalities and their missions are presented. We may have an open mind to acknowledge signs of angelic presence and interventions among us. We may also use our reasoning to draw particular conclusions from it.

I would like to share some aspects of St Michael, described in the Bible, that I found in my life.

Effective helper

"There is no one to lend me support except Michael your Prince" (Daniel 10:21).

There are situations in which one just feels helpless, especially when one experiences sinister powers overtaking one totally. Ten years ago, when I was a young priest, a man of extreme mental suffering was brought to me. He was treated for many years but none of the

doctors could help him in any way. His mother travelled around the country seeking a remedy or therapy, but in vain. Eventually, one of the doctors suggested visiting an exorcist. She took her son and went to the church asking for an exorcist priest. However, it was not a good time as some of the priests were sick, while others were busy. I was the only person available to whom she could talk. During our conversation the face of the man changed and he said with a changed voice: "I hate you. There is no help. Never pray for me!" I was frightened as it was the first time I experienced evil spiritual powers in an almost tangible form. I focused my mind and started to ask St Michael for help. After that the man was sitting still, looking as if he was resting. His mother said, "That's very strange. It's the first time I see him so calm during the attack. Usually, he acts so aggressively that several men must hold him so he would not hurt himself or others."

After the encounter I realised how lucky I was to have St Michael, such a great helper, by my side. I had no doubt that thanks to him there was no manifestation of the evil spirit taking control over the situation. St Michael the Archangel has the power to protect from evil effectively, to say no to the Devil. This was the very first time where I met St Michael as strong, steely and uncompromising about evil.

Guardian

"At that time Michael will arise the great Prince, defender of your people" (Daniel 12:1).

It happens that sometimes we act without thinking and a habit is formed. The next story I am going to share is St Michael's protective intervention. As a young boy in my novitiate I was sent to clean corridors on the second floor of our building. Cleaning does not require any intellectual effort as I washed the corridors immersed in my thoughts. It was a monotonous chore and I was not thinking of what I was doing or what was happening around me. I got to the stairs I was supposed to clean from top to bottom. I started to wash step after step, going down backwards. However, I began to feel a bit anxious having the impression that I forgot about something. I couldn't remember what it was. Suddenly, I had an inner thought: "Turn around!"

"What for?" I thought. "There's nothing behind me. I know these stairs like the back of my hand."

"Turn around immediately! the inner voice almost shouted.

The moment I did it I knocked over the bucket of water which flooded the rest of the stairs and the corridor. I managed to keep my balance. But for the inner warning I would probably



have fallen down the stairs from quite a great height. I looked at the picture on the wall. It was St Michael conquering the dragon. I realised the inner voice was his: caring for me and calling to me. Saved and relieved, I whispered, “Thank you.” I finished the cleaning without further incident.

Merciful angel

“Not even the Archangel Michael, when he was engaged in argument with the Devil about the corpse of Moses, dared to denounce him in the language of abuse. All he said was, ‘May the Lord rebuke you.’” (Jude 1:9).

As a teenager I refused to go to confession. There were many reasons for my decision, one of which was an experience I had in confession as a young boy. From that moment the sacrament of penance reminded me of my emotional wounds, and the sadness, disgrace and shame I felt. Today, as an adult, I would consider it differently, but then I just thought: ‘Never more.’ I abandoned my faith and the Church, wishing to forget what had happened.

But there came a time when I started to choose Christianity as my way. Jesus woke up my conscience

and I felt the burden of my sins as well as the need to leave it in the sacrament of reconciliation. I prayed for a good confession and a good confessor for a week. I used to kneel at the side altar of St Michael in the Holy Trinity Church in my city. I didn’t know the Michaelite Fathers then nor did I know of St Michael being their patron saint.

Shaky, I knelt down to confession and... I was heard, accepted and – most importantly – absolved. I always keep in mind the priest who heard my confession. It was one of the Michaelite Fathers I met several times in my pastoral work. Probably, he doesn’t even realise how much he helped me at that time. I met merciful God in that confession. I believe in St Michael’s intercession in my case. He just sent ‘his man’ who pulled the yoke of a hurting confession off me and reopened the way to heaven. I realised that, thanks to St Michael the Archangel, I experienced the sweetness of God’s mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Brave warrior

“And now war broke out in heaven, when Michael with his angels attacked the dragon. The dragon

fought back with his angels, but they were defeated and driven out of heaven” (Rev 12:7-8).

Blessed Fr Bronisław Markiewicz used to compare spiritual life to a bloodless battle. All who wish to develop spiritually experience inner struggle. As in every fight/struggle sometimes we are winners and sometimes we are losers. We endure defeats and the pain of rising up from falls. A few years ago I had a feeling that everything I had done for years of formation was in vain. I couldn’t see the chance to rebuild at least a part of my spiritual development. Discouraged and distraught I read the Book of Revelation in search of some inspiration. The battle between good and evil was described there and I felt as if St Michael was fighting with me! I was so focused on my failures that I didn’t notice that it was my ‘old man’ dying in me. I decided to take my salvation seriously and not let any ‘door’ in me to be opened for the evil one and closed for Jesus Christ. St Michael’s attitude towards evil in the Book of Revelation just confirmed a conviction in me that there is no place for half-measures and self-deception in spiritual life. I decided to take up the bloodless battle and I do it every day. St Michael is my inspiration and a reminder that there are values worth fighting for.

My aim in writing this testimony is to give consideration to St Michael not only as a subject of theological enquiry and debate but as a real helper in my life as a man, a Christian and a priest and who believes he will continue to receive help and support in future encounters with this great Archangel.

Fr Mateusz Szerszeń CSMA

The scapular of St Michael and relic stones

The value of the scapular of St Michael the Archangel and the white stones, housed in reliquaries, from the Grotto in Monte Sant'Angelo, Italy.

Given the sheer number of telephone calls, emails and letters received from different countries over the last twelve months, regarding the scapular and the white stones, housed in reliquaries, from the miraculous sacred *cave* in Monte Sant'Angelo, Gargano, Italy, we thought it would be useful to update and include the following compendium to frequently-asked questions.

Scapular of St Michael

The very first scapular of St Michael the Archangel was introduced in the 19th century at the Church of St Eustace in Rome and belonged to the Brotherhood of St Michael the Archangel, established in Rome on 30th August 1878. Unlike most scapulars, rather than being rectangular in shape, it was made in the shape of a shield. One side is navy blue in colour, the other black, with these same two colours on the ribbons. Both ends of the scapular had a picture of St Michael the Archangel killing the dragon and the words 'Quis ut Deus'. Pope

Pius IX gave this *scapular* his blessing, the very first scapular that was formally approved was the scapular approved by Pope Leo XIII in 1880.

Today the scapular of St Michael consists of two layers of woollen cloth in the shape of a shield, hand-made by the Carmelite Sisters. When sewing each stitch the sisters pray for each person who will receive the scapular. The material comes in two colours, black and navy blue. The black side has the image of St Michael from the shrine at Mont Sant'Angelo on Mount Gargano, the navy-blue side shows the image of Our Lady from Miejsce Piastowe, near Krosno, Poland (the motherhouse of the Michaelite Fathers).

The scapular of St Michael the Archangel is an outward sign of entrustment to St Michael and of belonging to the Michaelite family. It is worn in order to propagate the veneration of St Michael the Archangel. People who have accepted the scapular are called to serve Christ and His Church in the spirit of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel, as seen in its mottoes of, 'Who is like to God?' and 'Temperance and Work'. The section worn on a person's back signifies an attitude of acceptance of God's Will

in bearing the crosses and difficulties of life. The front section of the scapular, worn on the chest, reminds us that our hearts should love God and our neighbour and that we should attempt to free ourselves from earthly attachments, and, through the intercession of St Michael the Archangel, strive to attain eternal goods.

Wearing the scapular should remind us of our Christian duties and of the assurance of St Michael's intercession on our behalf. The scapular expresses our Christian faith that we will meet God in eternity, thanks to the intercession and protection of St Michael the Archangel.

The conditions of accepting the scapular are:

1. You should accept the scapular from the hands of an accredited priest or deacon.
2. You should wear it continually.
3. You should recite Pope Leo XIII's short prayer of exorcism daily.

What role does the scapular play?

1. The scapular is a sign of having chosen St Michael the Archangel as our particular protector in the fight against sin and temptation.
2. The scapular is the uniform of the angelic army. In the same way

that we recognize a soldier, police officer or priest by their clothing, so we can also recognize the Brotherhood of the scapular by the wearing of this sign.

3. The scapular as a garment and clothing is intended to protect the body. The scapular plays a similar role in the interior life: it protects us from every potential obstacle on the road to salvation, that is, from sin, from Satan and from hell.
4. The wearing of the scapular is a source of grace which assists us in making the sacrifices required to fight sin and to imitate Christ.

There is no impediment to small children receiving the scapular. It is advisable, however, that they should be of an age to be capable of understanding the basic truths of the Faith, preferably after having received their First Holy Communion.

Only a baptised person may wear the scapular. The scapular is an item blessed and approved by the Catholic Church so a person wearing it needs to belong to the same Church where the scapular is from. There should be cohesion and harmony between one's beliefs and religious items they wear. Those who wear crosses or medallions of St Michael or Our Lady are immediately identified as Christians. It should be the same with a scapular.

White stones in reliquaries

The stones from the grotto – the heavenly basilica in Gargano, Italy. In memory of the visit of the pilgrim

statue of St Michael the Archangel from the shrine in Gargano, 3-6 May 2013 A.D.

Stone is a common and naturally occurring material, utilised by mankind since the earliest times. Its characteristic properties are hardness, roughness and durability, which is why it was thought to be suitable for the writing of texts considered worthy to be preserved in perpetuity. The particular shapes and mysterious colours present within stone seem to indicate the existence of superhuman power, which filled primitive man with an almost religious awe and fear. The word 'stone' appears 337 times in the Bible as a noun and 30 times as an adjective.

Stone was particularly prized in the Ancient World. It was considered propitious. It indicated prosperity and a change in fortune for the better. White stones were used to mark happy and festive occasions. In the Bible, we read of a white stone on only one occasion, and that in the Book of Revelation, where Jesus Himself will give a white stone: "to those who prove victorious I will give some hidden manna and a white stone, with a new name written on it, known only to the person who receives it" (Revelation 2:17). The victors will share a happy fate – they will inherit the Kingdom of God, in which each person will take up the place which has been reserved for them and will be called by their own name. God's creative love will express the true identity and essence of the beloved person by means of their name.

Stone plays an integral part in the story of the revelation of St Michael at Gargano. When, in 1656, the plague was decimating the population of



Italy, a worried Bishop Alfonso Puccinelli entreated the help of St Michael the Archangel. In order to prevail on the Archangel for his swift intervention with the Lord, he placed into the hands of his statue the words of a prayer composed on behalf of all the town's inhabitants. The

reply received on 22nd September at the bishop's palace in Monte Sant'Angelo was swift in coming. During his morning prayer, Bishop Alfonso first heard what sounded like an earthquake, after which, in a flash of dazzling light, he saw St Michael the Archangel. He was also commanded to bless stones from the grotto, on which he was to inscribe the sign of the cross and the letters M.A. (Michael the Archangel). At the same time, St Michael assured him that whoever shall possess such a stone and keep it with devotion will be preserved from sickness. This promise proved true and all who possessed the stones were soon freed from the fatal disease.

Many priests therefore invite the statue from Gargano into their parishes and communities. And so, St Michael the Archangel comes, and leaves us small stones from the heavenly grotto. This white stone is today our weapon, and a stone as a weapon against evil signifies Christ.

The Apostle Peter goes deeper and teaches us that Jesus is the living stone, chosen by God and precious to Him, so that, "as living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:4-5), with the assistance of St Michael the Archangel.

Please ask a priest to bless the white stone from the heavenly grotto at the Shrine of St Michael. All stones in the reliquary are fragile and should be handled with care.

The custodians of the Shrine at St Michael the Archangel in Gargano do not supply a Certificate of Authentication to go with the white stones housed in the delicate reliquaries. Certificates of Authentication are usually reserved for the relics of saints.

The chief editor of The Angels magazine is Fr Peter Prusakiewicz, from the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel and he brings English speaking pilgrims to this Shrine. The religious order to which he belongs are Custodians of The Shrine of St Michael the Archangel in Monte Sant'Angelo in Italy.

In most cases an Act of Consecration prayer from the Sanctuary in Mont Sant'Angelo (FG) Italy is sent with the white stone by return of post from the UK office and the USA office. Stones ordered direct from the Shrine in Monte Sant'Angelo can take some months to be processed depending on the volume of orders.

Our office in Canada will be opening an office shortly to deal with The Angel magazine and sending out scapulars, relic stone and other religious items.

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SCAPULAR INVESTITURE

Rite of blessing and investiture of the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel.

Any priest or deacon can conduct the ceremony of blessing and bestowing of the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel according to the following ritual.

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Almighty, everlasting God, who dost graciously defend thy Church from the wiles of the devil through St Michael the Archangel, we humbly implore thee to bless + and sanctify + this scapular introduced for arousing and fostering devotion among thy faithful toward this great protector. And do thou grant that all who wear it may be strengthened by the same Holy Archangel, so as to vanquish the enemies of body and soul, both in this life and at the hour of death. Through Christ our Lord.

P. Let us pray.

Lord, look upon us praying and kindly hear the supplication of your servant dedicated to the special protection of St Michael the Archangel that through his intercession s/he may avoid any offence against you and may reach holiness in this life and after death the prize of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

St Michael's canon hymns

Oh St Michael the Archangel
You are praising Our God.
Help us conquer evil spirits,
Always stand by Christ Our Lord.
Help us conquer evil spirits,
Always stand by Christ Our Lord.

Mi-cha-el!

With Angels let us join in song,
May it rise like a mighty gong,
May it start swinging like a bell.
With all your heart call: Mi-cha-el!

**Mi-cha-el, may it sound even stronger,
Mi-cha-el, may it last even longer,
Mi-cha-el, may it reach even higher,
Mi-cha-el!**

From the earth, may it reach the sky,
This song that Angels sing on high.
Like bread with others let us share,
with all your heart call: Mi-cha-el!

**Mi-cha-el, may it sound even stronger,
Mi-cha-el may it last even longer,
Mi-cha-el, may it reach even higher,
Mi-cha-el!**

The God himself who dwells above,
Is worthy of your gift of love.
All human doubts he can dispel,
with all your heart call: Mi-cha-el!

**Mi-cha-el, may it sound even stronger,
Mi-cha-el may it last even longer,
Mi-cha-el, may it reach even higher,
Mi-cha-el!**



We truly do believe in miracles

Dear Father Peter Prusakiewicz,

I feel I have to write to you a short account of my family's recent story because you are also involved and I believe you will find it interesting.

My name is Maria Riger, born in Sydney, Australia of Croatian parents. I have two adult daughters, both married to Croatian men. My older daughter is Marianne and her husband, Anto, is the reason I am writing to you.

They lived in Greystanes, NSW, the next suburb of Merrylands, until late last year when they sold their home and bought a house in Ryde, NSW, Australia. Marianne and Anto moved into their new home in February 2019. A few days after the house move, my son-in-law, Anto, aged 36, was diagnosed with a rare form of bowel cancer. Due to the location of the bowl cancer, Anto was informed by his oncologist that he would probably have to remove Anto's colon and part of his intestine and most likely Anto would have a permanent colostomy bag for the rest of his life.

Healing Mass

Anto's parents live in the parish of St Margaret Mary's Church in Merrylands. That evening he went to visit them and went to Mass at St

Margaret Mary's and learnt that there would be a Healing Mass in a few weeks' time led by a visiting priest from overseas.

Anto, his father, my daughter, Marianne, and I attended that Mass at Merrylands on 20th March, 2019. You preached during the homily at the Mass which we found very interesting and it was fascinating learning about the stories and miracles of St Michael the Archangel and St Sister Faustina. (I wish you did not have your watch in front of you so you would have spoken longer!).

You said at the end of Mass that we could line up and you would bless whoever wished to be blessed and any religious items. You held the cross which contained the relic of St Faustina and blessed the people with it.

I was one of the last in line to be blessed. In my left hand were the items I had purchased that evening, four stones, and in my right were all of the reading material, prayer books, etc., that were being sold at the back of the church. I then moved over to the pilgrim statue of St Michael to pray alongside other people who were also praying.

You came over to where we were standing and there was an elderly lady who was kneeling at the side of the statue. You stood there looking at her and I thought you were going to give her a special blessing

because she was frail, old, kneeling, praying with her rosary beads and wearing her scapular. You returned to the altar.

After your sermon you came back and stood in front of me and asked me to open my hand which was closed holding the four stones in the reliqueries. I opened my small hand and you blessed the four stones with the first class relic of St Sister Faustina. After the blessing you moved away. People around me gasped when they saw this and some told me I was blessed and were touching me on the arm.

I went outside the church where my family was waiting and I told them that I believed a miracle just occurred and I hoped it meant that Sister Faustina was sending me a message that Anto would be fine.

Six weeks of treatment

Since then, Anto endured six weeks of painful radiation and chemotherapy in preparation for his operation which was booked for today, 24th June, 2019.

Anto visited his oncologist on 14th June after his last MRI scan and was told that the tumour which was originally about 4cm in size had shrunk. The oncologist was hopeful

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Surgery cancelled

On Friday 21st June 2019 Anto and Marianne went back to the oncologist. He told them that surgery scheduled that day was to be cancelled. Anto's tumour was gone, he is in remission and that they were to go home and celebrate!!! The biopsy came back negative for cancer cells. He will still have to have a course of chemotherapy and be closely monitored regularly.

Our family, friends and even those who do not know Anto constantly prayed to Our Lord, Our Lady, St Faustina, St Michael the Archangel, St Peregrine and many other saints for a full recovery.

We truly feel blessed and so grateful that our prayers have been heard. We will continue to pray for his good health for the rest of his life.

As a footnote, I would like to let you know that when I was driving to their home to look after their children this past week, the car in front of me had the number plate 'ANGELS' on it and I hoped that it was a good sign, which it turned out to be!

I later remembered it was the name of your magazine as well.

So God bless you, Father, for your work you do around the world and know that you, particularly, have people in Australia who will never forget your visit and that Mass followed by evening prayers that we shared with you, and the results that came about from it. We truly do believe in miracles.

Kind regards,

Maria Riger, NSW Australia
24th June 2019

that he may be able to save Anto from having a permanent colostomy bag, but all would depend on when he operated and actually saw the tumour. The operation was going ahead.

Out of nowhere my daughter received a call on Tuesday 18th June from the hospital requesting her to take all of Anto's scans to them so that his oncologist could discuss his case

with a visiting University Fellow. He was particularly interested in Anto's case because of his having this type of bowel cancer at such a young age and felt that his case warranted further investigation. Anto also had a biopsy procedure done, which this Fellow from the Netherlands personally attended, and all of these results were referred on to his fellow colleague in the Netherlands.

The strong arm of my guardian angel

A few years ago I lived on an island and the only means of leaving the island to travel to work was to take a ferry. Early one morning I was afraid of being late for work as I could see the ferry leaving from the quayside and the next ferry was due 20 minutes later, meaning that I would be late for work. Despite the fact that the barrier was already down, I made a run for the ferry. I was carrying a heavy backpack and took a running jump. As I jumped, my leg got caught between the closing ramps on the ferry. I was stuck in a position where my body was being pulled towards the water. Suddenly,

an incredible force was pushing me in the opposite direction, in such a way that I found myself on deck. Before I became fully aware of what had happened, as I was in a state of extreme shock, I was approached by a number of pale and terrified looking members of the crew. I expected a severe telling-off, but heard only, "Child, we saw you falling on these ramps and being pulled in." I am convinced that it was my guardian angel who saved me and pushed me forward, acting against the pull of gravity which, given the weight of my backpack, was then forcing me down.

My second testimony is from the time when I was at college. It was a period during which my life was being turned upside down and everything was very difficult for me. One day I was travelling to college and my thoughts were elsewhere, as I was considering what was happening with my life. I wanted to cross a busy road to the bus stop on the opposite side. As my bus was due to arrive I did not wait for the lights to change and dashed across the road, without looking to either side of me. Unfortunately, there were a lot of vehicles on the road and, being sunk deep in thought, I was not really paying attention to what was happening around me. I was already in the middle of the road when a car drove right past me and another car was coming in my direction. I had no way of getting back onto the pavement. At that moment, I suddenly felt that my body was being moved. I made a curious turn and, instead of finding myself on the bonnet of the oncoming car, then speeding towards me, I fitted into the space between two cars.

I believe that my guardian angel was protecting me, as I myself was incapable of moving from the spot and my body was propelled by some outside force, thanks to which I avoided being involved in a potential accident.

Magda, Edinburgh



Who is like God?



■ St Michael Archangel by Guido Reni, 1636

Can you say a few words about the title of the Polish version of The Angels magazine 'Who is like God?'

This is the mysterious name of Michael the Archangel. He, during the test of obedience, which God gave all reasonable and free creatures, decidedly supported God. He said the words: "Who is like God!"

What was this test about?

Tradition conveys it in the form of an order God gave all the angels when He created man on earth. He stated to them that Adam would be His adopted son and therefore recommended all angels to serve man as His son. He put man at their head. Man would give orders to all the angels. This test was a shock for the perfect angels who have seen their superiority, in every respect.

Archangel Michael: Meaning - "Who is like God", "Like unto God", "Who is like the Divine". The first angel created by God, Michael is the leader of all the archangels and is in charge of protection, courage, strength, truth and integrity.

Angels are military ghosts, arranged in a hierarchy from privates to the highest grades. The staff of generals surpass all hierarchies of the choirs of angels. Lucifer was the most perfect among generals and he did not accept God's decision. Lucifer regarded man's service as his humiliation. Man is the smallest of spirits, and in addition connected with the body, so this service was unacceptable for the ambitious angels.

Was there a division of angels then?

The angels then became divided: there was a split in the army created by God. Lucifer stood at the head of those rebellious ones, not directly against God, but against man. He said to God, "No!" Some of the angels were in favour and on Lucifer's side, thinking that man was to serve them, not vice versa.

In the New Testament, Michael leads God's armies against Satan's forces in the Book of Revelation, where during the war in heaven he defeats Satan.

The angels are created by God individually and organized according to military hierarchy and obedience (the nine choirs of angels). At the head of the obedient angels St Michael stood and said, "Who is like God?". In other words, he announced to be for God, not for Lucifer.

There was a terrible clash of angels obedient to God and those disobedient to Him. The former fought under Michael, the disobedient under Lucifer. The angels obedient to God won, and the army of those who disobeyed was thrown to the ground, where Adam was. Heaven was cleansed of rebels.

Why was Lucifer then knocked down to earth?

Because He was given the test of freedom and obedience and was free to make a choice and to decide whether he wished to be a beloved and obedient son of God or whether he preferred to listen to someone else.

We know the story of sin and how humanity gave up obedience to God, under the rule of Lucifer, who in the Scriptures is called Satan, and he has yet quite a few other names. He has legions of obedient angels at his disposal, which we call demons.

So man faced a similar dilemma: Listen to God or not?

As we know Adam symbolizes the "heavenly spirit", Eve symbolizes the "human soul", the Tree of Knowledge symbolizes "the human world", and the serpent symbolizes "attachment to the human world".

Yes, the fall of Adam therefore represents the way humanity became

conscious of good and evil and he was subjected to the same test and was also free to choose. And so it is for each person today who makes a conscious decision to listen to God or not.

We say that Adam lost everything and the irrevocable consequences of his sin affect all of us: that we have lost not only heaven, but also freedom, and that Adam is guilty of our misfortune.

That's how people think about Adam's sin and accuse him of our ignorance of what is the original sin, but it is only a small part of the truth. There is no collective responsibility before God. Sooner or later each man personally will face the test: obedience to God or to someone else.

And if a man wants to do his own will and does not want to obey God, then what are the consequences?

He immediately passes under the demon's orders (or suggestions). Demons fulfil their own will, not God's. It is a fact, even if such a man thinks he acts according his own will.

Is this thread - (subject, theme, motif) of freedom and obedience to God - is it present in Scripture?

Beautiful examples of human obedience to God are Abel, Noah and Abraham. Abraham is the father of people who trust God. He did not do his own will but God's will. The Old Testament shows many people obedient to God, who lived with this question: "Who is like God?" All their decisions were the fulfilment of God's will, and if during different situations they placed their own will above the will of God, they came to

Him asking for forgiveness and taking responsibility for all the consequences of their disobedience.

Is sin not a damage to freedom?

Sin weakens the will but it does not destroy a reconnection to God and freedom.

And addicts?

They destroy their freedom and take full responsibility for this, and also for the consequences of their words, decisions and behaviour. If a man lost his freedom completely, he would not be a man, and this is impossible. Man remains human for eternity.

But many people choose to be irresponsible...

You cannot choose it. You can run away from responsibility but it is pointless. Sooner or later man will stand before God and, seeing what he has done, will take responsibility for it for one hundred percent.

Will it be so with the Devil?

Yes, because you cannot escape from responsibility. The Devil, however, loves his pride and jealousy so much that he cannot reject these weaknesses. He wants to be disobedient because admitting he is wrong is a great humiliation for him.

Is there no way to talk about the conversion of Lucifer?

No. Although he believes in God and he knows that he must obey Him, but his obedience is a must, not a voluntary decision. He is looking for disobedient demons and people, and when he finds them that is enough for him.

Can a man imitate him?

Yes, he can. Man is a free creature and may imitate the Devil, which we see at every step.

Would you talk about the issue of freedom, especially the freedom we do not have?

Good question. We only think we don't have it. But a saint for example is free. He or she is weak but free. Weakness does not nullify freedom.

Holiness is not that we should not sin, but that we should go to God with our sin and apologize to him, feeling that I was responsible for what I did. This is proof of freedom and responsibility. Today many people doubt their freedom and, if they were not free, they would not be able to love God, themselves or people. The modern world attempts to deprive men of freedom and change them into robots. The robot will never say, "Who is like God!"

How does a believer deal with the question: "Who is like God?"

Every time we face temptation, every time someone suggests something to think, say or do against God; God, bearing our good in mind, calls us to stick to His rules. Then man rejects a temptation by declaring, "Who is like God!" This sentence is the basis for each victory over the temptation.

Can it be seen in the life of the Son of Man, Jesus, who was also tempted?

Although Jesus does not use these words in response to each temptation He reacts exactly as Michael the Archangel responded. He chooses the Father's will and not his own, in keeping with the principle: "Who is like God!"



■ The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise by Benjamin West, 1791

Turning stones into bread?

The Father says: "Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4), so I am on the side of the Father, not the tempter. Who is like God!

Throw yourself down! It is written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Matthew 4:6-7). Who is like God!

Do me homage! "The Lord your God is the one to whom you must do homage, him alone you must serve" (Matthew 4:9-10). Who is like God!

The cup of suffering that awaits you is beyond your strength, do not drink it!

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine" (Luke 22:42). Who is like God!

So the words 'Who is like God!' contain the essence of obedience to God?

Yes. And the words, "Who is like God" constitute a trump card in the game with every temptation. Whoever does not choose God in it, always loses. With this attitude one can resist the temptation to break each of the Ten Commandments of the Decalogue. Every time a believer in God professes: "Who is like God", he overcomes a temptation.

Let's get back to the first question. Who knows the secret of the words: "Who is like God?"

He who knows the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and Jesus of Nazareth, for whom this God is the Father.

But there are people who have their own understanding of God, psychologists, philosophers... Can they also appeal to the calling: "Who is like God?"

Some stand before God aware that they are made in His image.

Others create their own definition of God and they never profess their faith with the words: "Who is like God!"

So the title of our magazine invites believers to read?

Believers who are waiting for the next issue of your quarterly magazine, and those seeking the true God.

Finally, is man the master of angels, even Michael?

Our Lady is the Queen of Angels and each one of them waits for her command. She needs them where the demon attacks a man. Demons are afraid of her. God's decisions are irrevocable. A woman - Mary of Nazareth - is the Queen of Angels. This is one of the mysteries of our faith.

Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA
was speaking to Fr Edward

St Raphael the Archangel

St Raphael is one of the seven archangels who stand before the throne of God, and one of the only three mentioned by name in Scripture.

Among the three archangels named in the Bible, St Raphael is probably the least known. This may be due to the fact that St Raphael is only named in the Old Testament in the Book of Tobit (a book not considered canonical by Jews or Protestant Christians), while St Gabriel and St Michael feature prominently in both the Old and the New Testaments.

But the Old Testament is not necessarily the only place that St Raphael makes his appearance in the Bible. Many of the Church Fathers had speculated on whether or not he was the angel mentioned in John 5:1-4, which speaks of the pool called Beth-z'atha, where the blind, the lame and the paralysed were brought for healing: "an angel of the Lord descended at certain times into the pond; and the water was moved. And he that went down first into the pond after the motion of the water was made whole of whatsoever infirmity he lay under." This account was made the Gospel reading for the Mass of the feast of St Raphael in the traditional calendar.

Traditionally, St Raphael had a separate feast day celebrated on 24th October, but more recently his feast

was combined with those of the other two named archangels, St Michael and St Gabriel, to be celebrated on 29th September, which has now become known as the Feast of the Archangels.

Raphael in Hebrew can be interpreted as, "God heals", "Divine Healer", "Remedy of God" or "Medicine of God". In the Book of Tobit, Raphael reveals himself as a healer of mind, body and spirit. His angelic mission on earth is to heal, which is very important for those suffering in any way.

Travel companion to Tobias

Tobit was an Israelite of the tribe of Naphtali in the Northern Kingdom who was captured with many of his fellow countrymen and deported to Nineveh in the land of the Assyrians. He was a righteous man and when in exile took it upon himself to bury the dead even though this was forbidden by his Assyrian captors. Tobit became blind after bird droppings fell into his eyes. The blindness lasted for

several years and meant that he could not work and his wife had to earn their living. This sent Tobit into a deep anguish and he wished to die.

At the same time, in Media, there was a woman named Sarah who was tormented by a demon, named Asmodeus. Sarah had married seven times, but each time her bridegroom was killed by the demon on their wedding night, before the marriage could be consummated. She was also deeply depressed and, after being wrongly accused and insulted by her maid, she too, wished for death.

Both Tobit and Sarah turned to God in their anguish and because of their good life and prayers, God sent the Archangel Raphael to help them and to heal them.

He did this through Tobit's son, Tobias, who was sent on a journey by his father to a man named Gabiel at Reges in Media to get the ten talents of silver that Tobit had left in trust with him. But Tobit told his son to first find a companion to accompany him on this long journey and that this companion would be paid a wage for doing so. Tobias "found Raphael, who was an angel, but Tobias did not know it" (Tob 5:5). Disguised as a man, Raphael refers

to himself as “Azarias the son of the great Ananias” and travels alongside Tobit’s son, Tobias.

On the journey, Tobias is attacked by a fish in the River Tigris but with the guidance of Raphael he throws the fish onto dry land, removes the heart, liver and gall as instructed and puts them away safely.

Healing of Sarah

When asked, Raphael explains to Tobias their use for healing and then they roasted the fish and ate it. When they arrived in Media, Raphael tells Tobias that they must stay at the home of Raguel, a family relative and the father of Sarah. Raphael proposes that Tobias should take Sarah as his wife but Tobias has heard about the deaths of the previous seven husbands and does not wish to lose his life. Raphael explains to Tobias how, through the use of the heart and liver of the fish, the demon will be cast out of Sarah, never to return, and through the mercy of God she will become his wife.

While Tobias and Sarah are celebrating their wedding feast Raphael goes, at Tobias’s request, to Reges to get the money from Gabael for Tobit, while Sarah’s father bestows half of his wealth on Tobias, his son-in-law.

The true healing power of Raphael revealed

On their return from Media Raphael heals Tobit of his blindness using the gall of the fish. Tobias

and his father offer to pay Azarias half of their wealth in payment for travelling with Tobias and for helping him in so many ways. Raphael refuses the offer and declares to Tobit that he was sent by the Lord to heal his blindness and deliver Sarah, Tobias’s future wife, from the demon Asmodeus. It is then that his true healing powers are revealed and he makes himself known as “the angel Raphael, one of the seven, who stand before the Lord” (Tob 12:15.)

Give praise and thanks to God!

The longest recorded speech of an angel is that of the Archangel Raphael in Chapter 12 of the Book of Tobit. It is worthy of our attention for what it teaches us about how important it is to praise and thank God and how the work of the archangel is done in obedience to God’s will.

Note that Raphael called the two men privately and said to them: “Praise God and give thanks to Him; exalt Him and give thanks to Him in the presence of all the living for what He has done for you. It is good to praise God and to exalt His Name, worthily declaring the works of God, and with fitting honour to acknowledge Him. Do not be slow to give Him thanks. It is good to guard the secret of a king, but gloriously to reveal the works of God, and with fitting honour to acknowledge Him. Do good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer is good when accompanied by fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than



■ The Archangel Raphael refusing Tobias’ gift by Giovanni Biliverti, 1612.

to treasure up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who perform deeds of charity and of righteousness will have fullness of life; but those who commit sin are the enemies of their own lives.

Revealing the truth

I will now declare the whole truth to you and I will not conceal anything from you. I have said, ‘It is good to guard the secret of a king, but gloriously to reveal the works of God.’ And so, when you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought a reminder of your prayer before the Holy One; and when you buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. When you did not hesitate to rise and leave your dinner in order to go and lay out the dead, I was sent to test you. So now God

sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Lord.” (Tob 12: 6-15)

Both men were alarmed and fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. But the angel said to them: “Do not be afraid; you will be safe. But praise God for ever. For I did not come as a favour on my part, but by the will of our God. Therefore praise Him forever. All these days I merely appeared to you and did not eat or drink, but you were seeing a vision. And now bless the Lord upon the earth and give thanks to God, for I am ascending to Him who sent me. Write in a book everything that has happened to you” (Tob 12:17-20). When they stood up they saw him no more.

Invoking the help of St Raphael

In Tobit's great prayer of thanksgiving he acknowledges the wonderful works of God and praises him (Tob 13:1-18).

The Archangel Raphael heals Tobit of blindness, he protects and guides Tobias on his travels and he delivers Sarah from an evil demon. Tobit, Tobias and Sarah were beset by trials and difficulties to purify them, but they turned to God, remained steadfast in their faith during their period of testing, and eventually enjoyed God's blessings and mercy. All prayed for deliverance and God sent St Raphael. As the archangel reminds Tobit and Tobias, it is all God's favour and

God's Will that the help comes through His messenger, St Raphael. The angel also tells them that it is he, Raphael, who brought a reminder of Tobit's and Sarah's prayers before the Holy One. So we, too, can be sure that when we invoke the help of the angels they will take our prayers before God.

And in light of St Raphael's instruction to direct our thanks and praise to God we also pray:

O God, who in Your ineffable goodness had rendered blessed Raphael the conductor of Your faithful in their journeys, we humbly implore You that we may be conducted by him in the way of salvation, and experience his help in the maladies of our bodies and souls. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Devotion to St Raphael

As well as being known as the angel of good health, due to his actions in the Book of Tobit and the Gospel of John, St Raphael is also known as the patron of travellers, the blind, happy meetings, nurses, physicians, Christian marriage, and Catholic studies. As a particular enemy of the devil, he was revered in Catholic Europe as a special protector of Catholic sailors.

Throughout the world many cities are dedicated to the healing archangel, but perhaps none is so fervent as Cordova in Spain, due to a series of apparitions of the archangel there during the 16th century. In response to an appeal from the city,

Pope Innocent X allowed the local celebration of a feast in the archangel's honour on 7th May, the date of the principal apparition.

St John of God, founder of the hospital order that bears his name, also received visitations from St Raphael, who, as with Tobias, encouraged and instructed him. In tribute to this, many of the Brothers Hospitallers of St John of God's facilities are called “Raphael Centres” to this day. The 18th century Neapolitan nun, St Maria Francesca of the Five Wounds similarly had visions of St Raphael, who healed her of several maladies.

We have great need of St Raphael's powers of healing and clarity. Bolstered by the knowledge that he inevitably comes to the aid of those who pray for his guidance, we can confidently pray:

Glorious Archangel St Raphael, great prince of the heavenly court, illustrious for your gifts of wisdom and grace, guide of those who journey by land or sea, consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners:

I beg you to assist me in all my needs and in all the sufferings of this life, as once you helped the young Tobias on his travels.

And because you are the “Medicine of God”, I humbly pray to you to heal the many infirmities of my soul and all the ills which afflict my body, if it be for my greater good.

I especially ask of you a favour (name it) and also the grace of angelic purity, which may help me to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Phil Kerins, Scotland

Graces drawn from one vessel which is trust

Who would not want to enter through the gate of mercy?

Again, like every year, we are gathered here to celebrate the second Sunday after the resurrection of our Lord. Again, we are in the Upper Room, with Thomas, looking at the wounds of the Crucified Jesus and we are putting our hands into His side to exclaim, "You're alive! You are my Lord and God!"

Since the year 2000, we have been celebrating this Sunday as the Feast of Divine Mercy – a gift presented to the whole Church. We may say, "Christ died and rose from the dead so that we could courageously immerse ourselves in His mercy."

Why gather each year?

One may ask a question, "But why gather every year to sing the chaplet of Divine Mercy and look at the Divine Mercy image?" It is simple: we have changed during the last twelve months. And it is not just that we are older than a year ago. All of us have experienced different things.

Perhaps someone lost a relative, or someone has suffered from a disease. Sometimes, when we do not see one another for a long time, we ask, "How are you doing?" And the answer is, "Fine thank you, or nothing new the same old routine." But we know it is not true. Sadness and joy are always new.

Let me share my personal experience over the last several weeks. Tomorrow it will be a month since the unexpected death of one of our priests in Germany. Many years ago he was my tutor in the Lower Seminary in Miejsce Piastowe, Poland where I am currently living. He was my friend, my colleague and only five years older than me. Last Thursday I also attended a funeral of Fr Peter, a Capuchin, who died on Good Friday at the young age of 48 after a serious illness. When I return I am going to yet another funeral, of one of my colleagues' mother, who is the same as age me.

What is at the other side

As you can see, death has affected my life over the last several weeks. Moreover, during the last two weeks I spent many hours in hospital visiting my two colleagues on the cardiology and neurology wards. Each



■ Fr Krzysztof Poswiata CSMA

day I witnessed many sick people. I became more aware of our mortality than ever before. For me, this year's Feast of Divine Mercy is combined with intensive thoughts about death and what is at the other side of the stream of life.

I glorify Your mercy

St Faustina asked the Lord in one of her prayers, "O Christ, to the last moment of my life, I will not stop glorifying Your goodness and mercy."

With every drop of my blood, with every beat of my heart, I glorify Your mercy. I long to be entirely transformed into a hymn of Your glory. When I find myself on my death-bed, may the last beat of my heart be a loving hymn in praise of Your unfathomable mercy” (**Diary 1708**). But we all know that the moment of death can happen unexpectedly...

For the last few weeks the film “Love and Mercy” has been showing in Polish cinemas. It is a touching story of Sr Faustina, Fr Michael Sopocko and of the first Divine Mercy image painted by Eugeniusz Kazimierowski in Vilnius. I did not know that the painter had committed suicide. He spent several months over the painting, which poured hope and trust in to the hearts of millions of people all over the whole world. But, he himself, in a decisive moment of his life, at the moment of great anguish, wasn’t able to take Christ’s hand and call out, “Jesus, I trust in You.” Instead he took a rope and hanged himself.

On the Easter Monday I celebrated the Holy Mass in the Michaelite Sisters chapel across the road from the Mother House and Shrine of St Michael the Archangel in Miejsce Piastowe, Poland. The Gospel of that day was about the women who came to the grave and saw it empty. When they came back, they met the resurrected Lord who greeted them beautifully, “Greetings!” (Matthew 28:9). St Matthew writes, “And the women came up to him and, clasping his feet, they did him homage.” I reminded myself of my neighbour, a nun, who died at the age of 37. She was aware of the possible consequences of a serious and dangerous operation. “Aren’t you afraid you may die at such a young age?” I asked. She



looked me in the eyes and she said, “If I die, I am going to see Christ and clasp His feet!”

My soul was awakened

With joyful astonishment I found the following words in the Diary of St Faustina, “Then I heard the words: As you are united with Me in life, so will you be united at the moment of death. After these words, such great trust in God’s great mercy was awakened in my soul that, even if I had had the sins of the whole world, as well as the sins of all the condemned

souls weighing on my conscience, I would not have doubted God’s goodness but, without hesitation, would have thrown myself into the abyss of the Divine Mercy, which is always open to us; and, with a heart crushed to dust, I would have cast myself at His feet, abandoning myself totally to His holy will, which is mercy itself” (**Diary 1552**).

God is always good

What allows us to go through life with hope that, when we meet Jesus, we will clasp His feet? It is the awareness that God is ALWAYS

good. Always. This is the basis of human trust. Faith that God has a great plan for you originates from this particular awareness. In the film “The Great Silence” an old monk is sitting on a chair. He is a monk in Grande Chartreuse a monastery located in the French Alps. He is completely blind and has various reasons to complain about his life. But he says, “The closer man is to God, the happier he becomes. We don’t have to worry about what happens to us. I often thank God that I am blind. I am convinced that He allowed this for the sake of my soul. What a pity the world has lost the sense of God. They do not have a reason to live... One needs to always believe that God is infinitely good and everything he does is best for us. That is why the Christian should always be happy and never unhappy. Everything that happens is the will of God and it happens for the sake of our souls. God is infinitely good. And He helps us!”

Core of the Divine Mercy devotion

Jesus says to St Faustina that graces of His mercy may be drawn with only one vessel which is trust. It is not without reason that the words “Jesus, I trust in You” are in the very core of the Divine Mercy devotion. When your child believes in you and counts on you, you would do anything not to let them down. This is the same attitude of God towards man trusting Him. The one who trusts, says to God, “You know better”.

Entrustment to the will of God, in the fact that He is always good makes us less complaining, bringing more

inner peace and blessings to our lives. During a recent retreat in our seminary a priest asked, “Who among you entrusts yourself to God, accepts Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and wants to live according to His will?” We all raised our hands. He then asked, “Who among you believes that God knows the number of hairs on your head and that nothing happens without His will?” We all raised our hands. Followed by, “Who among you complained last week?” Consternation, a moment of silence and... a burst of laughter. We all raised our hands. Everyone – again.

Yes, we complain about everything which does not seem to fit our picture of the future. A scenario of our own happiness.

St Faustina died in 1938, when she was only 33 years old. She could have done so much! She dreamt about a new religious congregation but, nothing happened. No sign. Disappointment? Complaints? Grumbling? Regrets towards Jesus? No. “Jesus, I trust in You”. Not in myself.

Blessed Fr Michael Sopocko, who was the confessor and spiritual director of Sister Faustina and who devoted his entire priestly life to spreading the Divine Mercy, died in 1975. He was given the *gravissimum monitum*, which is the heaviest reprimand from the Holy See, lasting for 16 years until his death. He was forbidden to spread the devotion to the Divine Mercy by printing pictures and prayers. He was mocked even by seminarians to be deceived by a false mystic. From a human perspective he died as a loser. He was like a seed thrown alone into the ground. Totally abandoned.

Before his death he unsuccessfully turned to younger priests to take up

the devotion to the Divine Mercy. One of them mentioned during his visit, “I can’t, I need to take care of my scientific thesis”, he said. “Oh, yes”, Fr Sopocko replied quietly, getting up and leaving his cup of tea intact. “You’re the last priest who I visited ...”.

But he didn’t die like a ruined man, or someone brought to their knees; He died with the words: “Jesus, I trust in You”.

Awaken our faith in God

This is an important lesson for us. Perhaps there are some problems within our family. Perhaps we have suffered from a disease for years. Perhaps we have some difficulties in our relationships with our children or grandchildren. The temptation is to give up, to complain, to fall into depression, sadness or apathy. Today’s feast is to awaken our faith that God is always good and He holds our hand. The expression or prayer: “Jesus, I trust in You” is a particular message from God for our times. “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy” (**Diary 300**).

Let us remember that the words: “Jesus, I trust in You” is a reverse declaration in relation to the one said by man in Paradise, where they said to God: “I do not trust in You”. That is why it is so important.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Fr **Krzysztof Poswiata** CSMA
Homily on Divine Mercy Sunday
2019, at Elmore Abbey,
Speen, Berkshire, England

Confession, the fountain of God's mercy

Jesus Christ desires to anoint our wounds and touch our hearts. He wishes to build His kingdom within human souls.



Diary, 1146. Then suddenly, I saw how the two rays, as painted in the image, issued from the Host and spread over the whole world. This lasted only a moment, but it seemed as though it had lasted all day, and our chapel was overcrowded all day long, and the whole day abounded in joy.

Diary, 1448. “Write, speak of My mercy. Tell souls where they are to look for solace; that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation] There the greatest miracles take place [and] are incessantly repeated. To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one’s misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated. Were a soul like a decaying corpse so that from a human standpoint, there would be no [hope of] restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God.

The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God’s mercy! You will call out in vain, but it will be too late.”

Diary, 1521. The Lord said to me, “My daughter, do not tire of proclaiming My mercy. In this way you will refresh this Heart of Mine, which burns with a flame of pity for sinners. Tell My priests that hardened sinners will repent on hearing their words when they speak about My unfathomable mercy, about the compassion I have for them in My Heart. To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak.”

Diary, 1602. Today the Lord said to me, “Daughter, when you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul and

ennobles it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My mercy, with great trust, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul. When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity. The torrents of grace inundate humble souls. The proud remain always in poverty and misery, because My grace turns away from them to humble souls.”

Diary, 1728. Write: “I am Thrice Holy, and detest the smallest sin. I cannot love a soul which is stained with sin; but when it repents, there is no limit to My generosity toward it. My mercy embraces and justifies it. With My mercy, I pursue sinners along all their paths, and My Heart rejoices when they return to Me.

I forget the bitterness with which they fed My Heart and rejoice at their return.

“Tell sinners that no one shall escape My Hand; if they run away from My merciful Heart, they will fall into My Just Hands. Tell sinners that I am always waiting for them, that I listen intently to the beating of their heart... When will it beat for Me? Write, that I am speaking to them through their remorse of conscience, through their failures and sufferings, through thunderstorms, through the voice of the Church. And if they bring all My graces to naught, I begin to be angry with them, leaving them alone and giving them what they want.”

Diary, 1784. Today, in the course of a long conversation, the Lord said to me, “How very much I desire the salvation of souls! My dearest secretary, write that I want to pour out My divine life into human souls and sanctify them, if only they were willing to accept My grace. The greatest sinners would achieve great sanctity, if only they would trust in My mercy. The very inner depths of My being are filled to overflowing with mercy, and it is being poured out upon all I have created. My delight is to act in a human soul and to fill it with My mercy and to justify it. My kingdom on earth is My life in the human soul. Write, My secretary, that I Myself am the spiritual guide of souls – and I guide them indirectly through the priest, and lead each one to sanctity by a road known to Me alone.”

Taken from the “Diary”
of **St Faustina Kowalska**

How to pray the Rosary effectively

There was a time when I found the recitation of the Rosary very hard. My mind would be flooded with distractions. I hope they were not wilful. I made an effort to try and meditate on each decade, but I found after hearing the first decade announced my mind would wander.

The next thing I heard was the recitation of the Hail Holy Queen. In fact I had hardly thought of the mysteries at all. What was I to do to pray the Rosary better? The only thing was to write down the story behind each mystery and divide each decade into ten thoughts. I did this for the Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries. Many people asked me whether I was going to produce similar volume on the Glorious Mysteries. This was always my intention, but as time went by other duties took precedence. By now my thoughts on the Glorious Mysteries have changed and I also want to address the Luminous Mysteries, which were introduced by Pope John Paul II. To combine all the Mysteries in one volume I have provided ten thoughts for each decade.

I must be one of the millions who, while reciting the prayers of the Rosary, can hold down a picture, in

my mind, but find great difficulty in unfolding the story or mystery. There must be millions who, when reciting the mystery of the Annunciation, can picture the scene of the Archangel Gabriel speaking to Mary, but are unable to unravel in their minds the whole mystery for the space of two minutes and at the same time say the prayers laid down. It is to help these people and myself that I decided to write this booklet.

We must have all asked the question, when meditating on these mysteries, “Why can’t we meditate on each mystery for two minutes, instead of having to recite one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be?” The reason must be that the very best prayers we know, were chosen to provide a verbal clock. These take roughly two minutes to say, during which time a person is able to meditate on a mystery of the Rosary.

Others would say, “Why not meditate on the words that you have

to recite?" I think this would definitely make the Rosary a very laborious devotion. We would lose the whole point of the Rosary and that is to meditate on certain events that took place in the lives of Jesus and Mary. Besides we could challenge anyone to say even one Our Father without a distraction. There is a delightful story told of one saint who, while riding on his horse in the countryside, met a weary traveller. He dismounted and challenged him. "If you can recite the Our Father without a distraction, my horse is yours." The weary traveller was ready for the challenge. He said, "I could do that easily." He joined his hands, closed his eyes and slowly and deliberately began the Our Father. Half way through, he opened his eye and he saw the beautifully carved leather saddle. He said, "Do I get that as well?" Even with the incentive of a horse, that traveller was unable to say the Our Father without a distraction. How could we possibly get through the whole Rosary without distractions?

My failure to progress with the Rosary would never allow me, even for a day, to stop praying the Rosary. Why? Because Mary, our Mother, appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes, and to Lucy, Jacinta and Francesco at Fatima and told them to pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world and for the conversion of sinners. That is enough for me. Mary's wish in this matter is as good as a command. Just as Jesus has said, "If you love me keep my Commandments", so, too, Mary could say, "If you love me, do as I request." The fact that this is Mary, the Mother of God talking, surely we ought to do what she asks of us?

The Rosary has always been an essential part of my daily prayers.

Besides, I owe much to the love and example of my parents for the Rosary. Towards the end of their lives during retirement together they were able to recite the fifteen mysteries of the Holy Rosary every day. Our Capuchin Franciscan Constitutions strongly recommend that each friar should recite the Rosary every day. Last, but not least, our saintly Brother Padre Pio gave me the incentive to pray the Rosary daily. One day he was asked by his Guardian how many Rosaries he had recited that day. He replied, "I would prefer not to tell you, but since you are my Guardian, and you have asked me I can tell you I have said 35 Rosaries today." That is enough to tell me there must be something wonderful in this devotion. If a mystic like him should daily desire to say this prayer over and over again, how much more I should love saying this prayer. For St Padre Pio, the Rosary was his weapon against the devil. We should all use the Rosary as a means to holiness.

These then are the reasons which have prompted me to put pen to paper and write this booklet on the Rosary. It has helped my devotion to the Rosary and cut out distractions while I pray the Rosary. I hope it will help you too. Please share this with others.

ANNUNCIATION

1. Think of the family of Mary, Anne and Joachim.
2. Mary at prayer.
3. The archangel Gabriel greets Mary.
4. Mary's reaction is one of fear.
5. "Do not be afraid; you are to bear a Child."
6. "How can this be for I know not man?"

7. The angel tells Mary how the conception will take place. In doing so he reveals that there are three Persons in one God.
8. Your cousin Elizabeth, too, is expecting a baby.
9. The angel and all Heaven eagerly await Mary's reply.
10. Mary gives her consent.



■ The Annunciation by Domenico di Pace Beccafumi, circa 1545

THE VISITATION

1. Mary thinks of her aged cousin Elizabeth. She is going to need a young pair of hands.
2. Imagine Mary on the road, surrounded by a host of angels adoring the Child she is carrying.
3. Mary and Elizabeth embrace.
4. "Why should the mother of my Lord visit me?"
5. John in the womb of Elizabeth leaps for joy.
6. "My soul glorifies the Lord."
7. Mary helps Elizabeth get through her daily chores.
8. In the evenings they chat about spiritual matters.
9. During those three months Mary and Joseph would have found a way of being in touch.
10. Mary returns to Nazareth.



■ Visitation by Peter Paul Rubens, 1611-1612

THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOUR

1. Joseph discovers Mary with Child.
2. Joseph's dilemma. What is he to do?
3. The angel in a dream tells him he is to take Mary as his wife.
4. What happiness this news brings him, but also some anxiety.



■ The Adoration of the Shepherds by Georges de La Tour, circa 1645

5. News of the census. Everybody is to go to their place of origin and hand in their name.
6. Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem.
7. In Bethlehem there is no room for them in the inn.
8. They find a dwelling.
9. Jesus is born in a stable.
10. The adoration of the shepherds and the Magi.



■ Simeon's Song of Praise by Aert de Gelder, between 1700-1710

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

1. The Holy Family's forty day stay near Jerusalem.
2. Jesus in the temple for the first time.
3. They await the ceremony.
4. Mary is blessed by the priest.
5. Two doves are sacrificed.
6. Joseph hands over five silver coins, the ransom money for the Child.
7. Simeon's prophecy.

8. The widow Anna has the privilege of meeting the Holy Family.
9. Mary and Joseph with the Child Jesus leave the temple.
10. The flight into Egypt.

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

1. Think of Jesus as a 12 year old boy.
2. Along with other families the Holy Family make their way to Jerusalem.
3. Jesus in the temple once again.
4. Mary and Joseph make their way back to Nazareth unaware that their Son Jesus is not with them.
5. Mary and Joseph discover their loss.
6. They return to Jerusalem and search the streets.
7. They search the temple.



■ Jesus among the Doctors by Albrecht Dürer, 1506

8. After three days they find Him in the temple conversing with the learned men.
9. Mary questions her Son why He never disclosed His plans to Joseph and her.
10. They return to Nazareth

Fr Francis Maple OFMCap, UK



■ Bl Maria Teresa Ledóchowska

How did it come about that a lady-in-waiting in the royal court in Salzburg became known as the “Mother of Africa”?

Blessed Maria Teresa Ledóchowska (1863-1922), elder sister of St Ursula Ledóchowska, was born in Austria, into a noble family of Polish immigrants. Her parents took particular care to bring up their children in the Catholic faith and in a spirit of patriotism.

Maria Teresa loved to write. As a child, she wrote poetry and by the age of sixteen had written her first book about her journey to her homeland. When her parents made the decision to return to Poland, the then 20-year-old Maria Teresa was delighted. She wanted to help her parents at their estate in Lipnica Murowana near Bochnia.

Mother of Africa

God, however, had a different task in mind for her. She was confined to bed for a number of weeks by smallpox, as also was her father. It eventually killed Mr Ledóchowski. His daughter survived, but was so enfeebled that she was unable to help her mother on the estate. Always deeply religious, in her illness Maria Teresa turned to God all the more. Thanks to the efforts of her family she obtained the position of lady-in-waiting in Salzburg, where she kept herself busy by writing, in addition to carrying out her daily duties.

The turning point

One day some nuns came to the court asking for donations for the missions. It was the first time that Maria Teresa encountered the missionary ideal of the Church. This was the time that Cardinal Charles Marcial Lavigerie was making great efforts to help Africa. In a leaflet he had written, Maria Teresa read the words: “Those whom God has endowed with a talent for writing should use it to promote the most sacred cause of all.” This sentence was the turning point of her life: Ledóchowska stopped writing dramas set at court in order to devote herself completely to work for the African missions.

The first step in fulfilling the Will of God involved writing a play

entitled “Zaida the African”, which was dramatized at the theatre in Salzburg and other towns in Austria. The next step was her work as a member on anti-slavery committees. Here she encountered her first difficulties, leading to her expulsion from the committees: she insisted on promoting the Catholic nature of the African mission, while others wanted it to be inter-denominational.

“Echo from Africa”

In 1890 Maria Teresa made the decision to devote herself completely to her work for Africa. She broke off all her social contacts, moved into a little room next to an old people’s home run by the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul and, that very same year, began writing articles and publishing the “Echo from Africa”. This Catholic magazine about the life of missionaries caught the public imagination. In less than three years her work had grown to such an extent that her own efforts were insufficient to the task. She decided to set up the Sodality of St Peter Claver, an association which brought together a group of women wanting to support the work of the missions. These enthusiastic ladies started their work in two small halls at the church of the Holy Trinity. By 1894 the ladies had their own printing press.

Community and mission

In 1897, Pope Leo XIII approved the Sodality as a religious congregation. The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver made use of the available mass media in order to develop the awareness of people in Europe of the need to bring the Gospel to Africa and other continents by means of the Catholic missions and to assist the poor of the countries they worked in. The sisters printed missionary brochures, calendars, appeals, catechisms and religious literature in local languages. From 1910 onwards, "Echo from Africa" and "Little African" were published in twelve languages. In the 1920s "Echo from Africa" had a circulation of 100,000. Maria Teresa transferred the Mother House to Rome, where an international novitiate was established. There were branches of the sodality in nearly every country in Europe and the Mother General frequently travelled to give talks about the African missions. She provided missionaries with the wherewithal necessary for their work: bringing it to the notice of the public, providing funds, publications and, above all else, prayers and new vocations.

Maria Teresa Ledóchowska, who had become known as the "Mother of Africa", died in 1922. She was beatified by Pope Paul VI on Mission Sunday in 1975. We celebrate the memorial of this day on 6th July.

Currently, Sisters of St Peter Claver serve in over 23 countries and there are more than 70 sisters in formation. Their main charism is to promote missionary work. God himself continues the work He began through Maria Teresa.

What does this mean for us?

What should we take from this story? We can see the remarkable way in which God guided her, how events which in human terms are difficult, even tragic – emigration, serious illness, the death of her father, separation from her family, expulsion from anti-slavery committees, a frugal existence in the room by the old people's home – all acted as a springboard for Maria Teresa, helping her to discover her true vocation.

Thanks to emigration, she learnt to speak and write fluent German, which helped in her future work. Thanks to her illness, she was brought closer to God and understood that her work was not to help with the family estate. Thanks to her work at court, she came into contact, not only with missionaries but with influential people, whose attention and financial support she could then draw on to meet the needs of the missions. Thanks to the adversity she met with on the missionary committees, she found her resolve to remain faithful to God in difficult circumstances and sowed the seed of the future religious congregation.

The example of the founder of the Sisters of St Peter Claver shows us that the author of all the events of our lives, is God Himself. It is easy to thank God for pleasant situations and loving people. Perhaps we will learn to show gratitude in the difficulties that we encounter and learn to recognise in them the hand of God?

Taken from www.brewiarz.pl
and www.klawerianki.pl
Agata Pawłowska
CSMA Office Poland



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- The Old Town of Krakow
- The concentration camp in Auschwitz
- The salt mine in Wieliczka
- Shrine of St Michael in Miejsce Piastowe

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Email: lilymlister@gmail.com



Suhyeon Choi, www.unplash.com

TESTIMONIES

I do care

As a small boy, the first time I ever heard the word 'abortion' was in a children's ditty. Although I had no idea what 'abortion' was, I immediately knew it was something unpleasant. Many years later when I realised the meaning of the word, I was indeed grateful for my first instincts.

As a family with three children and two hard working parents, we knew some hardships in our lives as we grew up, although we did occasionally manage a week's holiday at the seaside. However, holiday or not, every year in July the funfair came to Glasgow Green and we were there. This was an amazing sight with the Big Dipper, Dodgem cars, Waltzers and many sideshows to tempt the pennies from your pocket. In those days almost every sideshow where prizes could be won had rows and rows of goldfish hanging in plastic bags full of water. One year I actually won this new pet. We had a laugh with the bus conductor on the way home who jokingly insisted that the fish pay half fare. Unfortunately we didn't have

proper facilities for 'Goldie' (what an inspirational name?) at home and within a few days I was persuaded that 'Goldie' would be much happier playing with all his wee pals out at sea. Down the toilet he was flushed to begin his new adventure. Not very pro-life I agree, but I was only seven years old!

Gradually, as the years passed, the Animal Rights lobby began making noises about the plight of these goldfish prizes. Laws were introduced as to the treatment of the fish till eventually it was more bother that it was worth to use them as prizes. Yes reader, the goldfish obtained 'rights'!

As I grew up I became involved in the Pro-Life Movement. Thinking back to my childhood, I wondered at the difference between a goldfish in a bag of water and a human foetus in a bag of amniotic fluid. I couldn't really see why the fish had rights and the human pre-born baby had none. As a result I wrote this poem. It has alternative endings and is really up to you, the reader as to which ending is appropriate to you.

The Unborn Child's Lament

Although you can't see me,
I am still here.
I have no rights,
so there's nothing to fear.
Because you can't see me
doesn't mean I'm not there.
But you protect the 'Poor
Goldfish' in a bag at the fair.

The goldfish has rights
the law seems to say,
Fresh clean clear water
and food every day.
No one can see me,
no rights can I share
Unlike the 'Poor Goldfish',
in a bag at the fair.

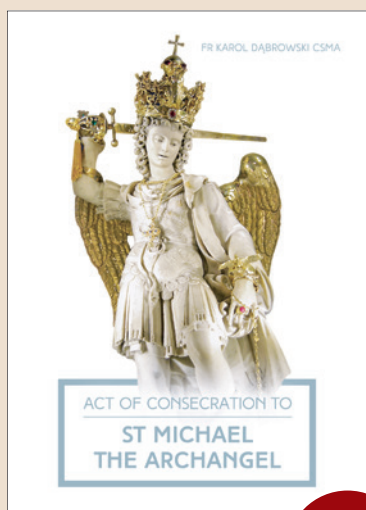
Don't hurt 'Poor Fox'
he should have the right
To hunt for his family,
by day and by night.
Defend him! Protest!
Make the public aware!
Give him rights like 'Poor
Goldfish' in a bag at the fair.

Blood sports are ugly,
a terrible thing.
Poor Mr Fox torn apart,
limb from limb.
The hunter enjoys it,
he doesn't care
And ignores the 'Poor Goldfish'
in a bag at the fair.

My name is Foetus. I have no voice.
My Mamma will kill me,
she has the choice.
My tiny body she refuses to bear,
But she defends 'Poor Goldfish'
in a bag at the fair.

One day we will realise
the lives we have lost
Sixty million each year
– Devastation! Holocaust!
Then people will say, "Did you
protest?," "You were there!"
Yes! I stood up and was
counted amongst those who care!

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Prayer for help



Help me Jesus, that what I ask of You I will give to others - mercy, in word and deed.

Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge others, but to always look for what is beautiful and good in other people.

Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to others' needs, and not be indifferent to their pain.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak wrongly of others, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds so that I may do only good to others and always try to take upon myself the more difficult tasks.

Help me, O Lord, that my feet and may be merciful so that I may hurry to assist others, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness.

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel the sufferings of others.

O my Jesus, transform me into Yourself, for You can do all things. (Diary 163)

USA 2019

27th – 28th September 2019

USA Conference

Theme: St Michael the Archangel arising: Defender of the Church

Holy Vietnamese Martyrs

Catholic Church

1107 E Yager Ln,

Austin, Texas 78753

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www.FullnessOfTruth.org

30th September

& 1st – 2nd October 2019

Angelic Parish Mission

7:30 am Parish Mass + 2nd Talk

5:00 pm Introduction

5:10 pm Liturgy of the Hours

5:30 pm Holy Mass + Talk 3

6:30 pm Talk 4, Angelic Chaplet

and Eucharistic Holy Hour

Day 1 – The Angels

– Our invisible companions

Day 2 – Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael

Day 3 – Guardian Angels

– Our personal soul and body guards

The Church of the Nativity

210 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park,

CA 94025, USA

Contact: Patsy Gonzalez

Phone: +1-650-224-6010

Email: patsygee@yahoo.com

ENGLAND 2019

14th September 2019

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

4:00 pm Talk: Deeper in Divine Mercy

5:00 pm Eucharistic Healing Hour

6:00 pm Parish Vigil Mass

Homily: St Faustina and St Michael

St Anthony Church

Keinton Walk, Henbury,

Bristol BS10 7BE

Contact: Fr Colin Mason

Phone: +44(0)1179-620-676

Email: colin.mason@cliftondiocese.com

15th September 2019

9:15 am & 11:15 am Sunday Masses

Homily: St Faustina and St Michael

Sacred Heart Church

Grange Court Road

Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 4DR

Contact: Fr Colin Mason

Phone: +44(0)1179-620-676

Email: colin.mason@cliftondiocese.com

1st – 3rd November 2019

Talks: Walking in the footsteps of St Faustina

St Michael of All Angels

Belmont Abbey

Ruckhall Lane, Hereford HR2 9RZ

Contact: Geraldine Downing

Email: geraldine@dgdown.plus.com

Phone: +44(0)1978-357-367

SCOTLAND 2019

25th October 2019

7:00 pm Holy Mass

Talk: Obeying the will of God

and not our own will

St Mary's Church

167 George Street, Paisley PA1 2UN

Contact: Helen Border

Email: Helen.Border@glasgow.ac.uk

26th October 2019

6th National Divine

Mercy Conference

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Theme: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42)

St Augustine's Church

12 Dundyan Road, Langloan

Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ

Contact: Helen Border

Email: Helen.Border@glasgow.ac.uk

WALES 2019

29th & 30th October 2019

Theme: Saints of Divine Mercy:

St Faustina, Bl Michael Sopocho,

St John Paul II

Diocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy

Sacred Heart Church

Morrison, Swansea SA6 6HZ

Contact: Fr Jason Jones
Phone: +44(0)1792-771-053
Email: corjestreforys@yahoo.com

ENGLAND 2020

15th – 17th May 2020

Theme: The Secrets of St Faustina
Sandymount House & Retreat Centre
16 Burbo Bank Road,
Blundellsands, Liverpool, L23 6TH
Contact: Kathy
Phone: +44(0)151-924-4850
Email: sandymountcrosby
@montfort.org.uk

USA 2020

19th – 22nd January 2020

Boise Cathedral
Boise, Idaho.
Theme: TBC
Further details to follow

24th – 26th January 2020

Theme: Why, "Jesus I Trust in You"?
A Divine Mercy and Angels Retreat
St Clare's Retreat Centre
2381 Laurel Glen Road,
95073 Soquel, California
Phone: +1-831-423-8093
Email: stclaresretreatcenter@gmail.com
www.stclaresretreat.com

25th – 27th September 2020

Divine Mercy Conference
Holy Cross Ministries
4460 W SHAW SUITE 522
Fresno, California 93722
Contact: Christy Villas
Phone: +1-559-457-8800
Email: christyvillas25@gmail.com

28th January 2020

Day Retreat 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Theme: Delving deeper into
the Divine Mercy
Our Lady of Peace Retreat Centre
3600 SW 170th Avenue
Beaverton, Oregon 97003
Office: +1-503-649-7127
Contact: Carolyn Callahan,
Admin Assistant



Contact: Sr Agnes Clare,
Retreat Directress
Phone: +1-503-649-7127
Email: sisters@olpretreat.org
www.olpretreat.org

CANADA 2020

18th January 2020

3rd Annual Vancouver
Marian Conference
Talks by Fr Peter: The Divine
Mercy, Our Lady and St. Michael
The Croatian Cultural Center
3250 Commercial Drive
Vancouver BC V5N 4E4, Canada
Contact: Ethelyn David
Phone: +1(604)-889-3842
Email: ethelyn.david@gmail.com

18th – 19th April 2020

Divine Mercy Conference
Theme: St Faustina
and St Michael the Archangel
Toronto, Canada
Contact: Alex Lemos
Phone: +1(647)-870-281
Phone: +1(905)-847-9750
Email: europeanexpress@hotmail.com

IRELAND 2020

2nd October 2020 / Friday

Angelic Parish Mission
The Feast of the Guardian Angels
7:30 pm Holy Mass.

Talk on the angels
8:15 pm Eucharistic Healing
hour with angelic chaplet

3rd October 2020 / Saturday
6:00 pm Holy Mass.

Talk St Michael and holy angels
7:00 pm Eucharistic Healing
hour with angelic chaplet

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2019 Irish Mission

Visitation of the large pilgrim statue of St Michael the Archangel in Ireland

Large crowds came to greet the pilgrim statue of St Michael the Archangel at the locations shown below. Each venue started with Mass followed by a Eucharistic Healing Hour. Talks: St Michael the Archangel and Divine Mercy. Concluding with an individual blessing of the scapulars and relic stones from the Shrine in Mont Sant'Angelo, Foggia, Italy.

- **15th July**
Church of Mary Immaculate,
Grange, Co. Sligo.
- **16th July**
St Naul's Church,
Ardaghey, South West Donegal.
- **17th July**
St Mary's Church,
Limavady, Co. Derry.
- **17th July**
Melmount Parish,
Strabane, Northern Ireland.
- **18th July**
St Eunan's Church,
Raphoe, Co. Donegal.
- **19th July**
Cathedral of the Immaculate
Conception, Sligo City.

