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# JESUS ALWAYS COMES BACK

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY - APRIL 27, 2025

Today, the last day of the Octave of Easter, the Gospel recounts the first and second apparition of the Risen One to the disciples. Jesus comes at Passover, while the Apostles are shut in the Upper Room, out of fear, but since Thomas, one of the Twelve, is not present, Jesus returns eight days later (cf. Jn 20:19-29). Let's focus on the two main characters, Thomas and Jesus, looking first at the disciple, and then at the Master. There is a good dialogue between these two.

The Apostle Thomas, first of all. He represents all of us, who were not present in the Upper Room when the Lord appeared, and did not have other physical signs or apparitions from him. We too struggle at times like that disciple: how can we believe that Jesus is risen, that he accompanies us and is the Lord of our life without having seen him, without having touched him? How can one believe in this? Why does the Lord not give us some clearer sign of his presence and love? Some sign that I can see better... Here, we too are like Thomas, with the same doubts, the same reasoning.

But we do not need to be ashamed of this. By telling us the story of Thomas, in fact, the Gospel tells us that the Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians. I tell you: I am afraid when I see a Christian, some associations of Christians who believe themselves to be perfect. The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be? It knows times of comfort, zeal and enthusiasm, but also of weariness, confusion, doubt and darkness. The Gospel shows us Thomas' "crisis" to tell us that we should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises are not sins, they are part of the journey, we should not fear them. Many times, they make us humble because they strip us of the idea that we are fine, that we are better than others. Crises help us to recognize that we are needy: they rekindle the need for God and thus enable us to return to the Lord, to touch his wounds, to experience his love anew as if it were the first time. Dear brothers and sisters, is better to have an imperfect but humble faith that always returns to Jesus, than a strong but presumptuous faith that makes us proud and arrogant. Woe to those, woe to them!

And, faced with Thomas' absence and his journey, which is often also our own, what does Jesus do? The Gospel says twice that he "came" (vv. 19, 26). First once, then a second time, eight days later. Jesus does not give up, he does not get tired of us, he is not afraid of our crises, our weaknesses. He always comes back: when the doors are closed, he comes back; when we are in doubt, he comes back; when, like Thomas, we need to encounter him and to touch him up close, he comes back. Jesus always comes back, he always knocks on the door, and he does not come back with powerful signs that would make us feel small and inadequate, even ashamed, but with his wounds; he comes back showing us his wounds, signs of his love that has espoused our frailties.

Brothers and sisters, especially when we experience moments of weariness and crisis, the Risen Jesus wishes to return to stay with us. He only waits for us to seek him, to call on him, or even, like Thomas, to protest, bringing him our needs and our unbelief. He always comes back. Why? Because he is patient and merciful. He comes to open the upper rooms of our fears and unbelief because he always wants to give us another chance. Jesus is the Lord of "other chances": he always gives us another one, always. So let us think about the last time – let's try to remember a little – that, during a difficult moment or a period of crisis, we closed in on ourselves, barricading ourselves in our problems and shutting Jesus out of the house. And let us promise ourselves, the next time, in our fatigue, to seek Jesus, to return to him, to his forgiveness – he always forgives, always! – to return to those wounds that have healed us. In this way, we will also become capable of compassion, of approaching the wounds of others without inflexibility and without prejudice.

May Our Lady, Mother of Mercy – I like to think of her as the Mother of Mercy on the Monday after Mercy Sunday – accompany us on the journey of faith and love.

POPE FRANCIS — April 24, 2022

## Remembering Pope Francis: A Shepherd of Mercy and Mission

On April 21, 2025, Pope Francis completed his earthly pilgrimage and returned to the Father. From the moment he was elected in 2013, he led the People of God with humility, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the Gospel. As the first pope from the Americas and the first Jesuit to hold the papacy, he brought a distinctive pastoral spirit — rooted in mercy and a profound concern for the poor and the marginalized.

From the earliest days of his pontificate, Pope Francis called the Church to be one that “goes forth” — a Church not content to remain within its own walls, but one willing to reach the peripheries of society. He gave voice to the forgotten, the excluded, and the suffering: the poor, the elderly, migrants, and those whose pain often goes unseen. His journeys around the world gave witness to this mission, as he stood in places of conflict and poverty, offering gestures of peace, words of justice, and a deep compassion that transcended borders.

One of the defining moments of his papacy came in 2015 with the release of *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical that echoed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Grounded in the Church's social teaching, it reminded all people of goodwill of our shared responsibility to care for creation and to defend the dignity of every human being, especially the most vulnerable. Its impact was far-reaching, inspiring dialogue and action not only within the Church but across global communities.

*Diocese of Hamilton News, April 22, 2025*

### ENGLISH SCHEDULE

#### *Second Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy*

<u>Saturday, April 26, 2025</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<i>+Nicola Scarfone &amp; deceased members of the Morabito Family</i>	
<u>Sunday, April 27, 2025</u>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	
<u>Tuesday, April 29, 2025</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<i>+Deceased members of the Wyrwal Family</i>	
<u>Wednesday, April 30, 2025</u>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<u>Thursday, May 1, 2025</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<i>+Lois Russel</i>	
<u>Friday, May 2, 2025</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<i>+Dolores Sedlmeir</i>	

#### *Third Sunday of Easter*

<u>Saturday, May 3, 2025</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<i>+Gerard Dombroskie</i>	
<u>Sunday, May 4, 2025</u>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	

### HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

#### *II Domingo de Pascua de la Misericordia Divina*

<u>Sabado 26 de abril, 2025</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<i>+Luis Gabriel Peña +Maria Elena Quan Avilés</i>	
<u>Domingo 27 de abril, 2025</u>	<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	
<u>Martes 29 de abril, 2025</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<i>+Maria Elena Quan Avilés +Maria Varas</i>	
<u>Miercoles 30 de abril, 2025</u>	<b>NO HAY MISA</b>
<u>Jueves 1 de mayo, 2025</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<i>+Maria Elena Quan Avilés +Maria Varas</i>	
<u>Viernes 2 de mayo, 2025</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
<i>+Maria Elena Quan Avilés +Maria Varas</i>	

#### *III Domingo de Pascua*

<u>Sabado 3 de mayo, 2025</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<i>+Marvin Castillo Courtade Aniversario de boda Rocio y Gabriel Quintana</i>	
<u>Domingo 4 de mayo, 2025</u>	<b>11:00 AM &amp; 1:00 PM</b>
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	

## Recordando al Papa Francisco: Pastor de Misericordia y Misión

*Noticias Diocesis de Hamilton, 22 de Abril, 2025*

El 21 de abril de 2025, el Papa Francisco completó su peregrinación terrenal y regresó al Padre. Desde su elección en 2013, guió al Pueblo de Dios con humildad, compasión y una dedicación inquebrantable al Evangelio. Como el primer Papa nacido en Sud America y el primer Jesuita en ejercer el papado, impuso un espíritu pastoral distintivo, arraigado en la misericordia y una profunda preocupación por los pobres y marginados.

Desde los primeros días de su pontificado, el Papa Francisco llamó a la Iglesia a ser una Iglesia en salida: una Iglesia que no se contenta con permanecer encerrada en sus muros, sino dispuesta a llegar a las periferias de la sociedad. Dio voz a los olvidados, a los excluidos y a los que sufren: los pobres, los ancianos, los migrantes y aquellos cuyo dolor a menudo pasa desapercibido. Sus viajes alrededor del mundo dieron testimonio de esta misión, al estar presente en lugares de conflicto y pobreza, ofreciendo gestos de paz, palabras de justicia y una profunda compasión que trascendía fronteras. Uno de los momentos decisivos de su papado llegó en 2015 con la publicación de *Laudato Si'*, una encíclica que se hizo eco del clamor de la tierra y del clamor de los pobres. Basada en la doctrina social de la Iglesia, recordó a todas las personas de buena voluntad nuestra responsabilidad compartida de cuidar la creación y defender la dignidad de todo ser humano, especialmente de los más vulnerables. Su impacto fue de gran alcance, inspirando el diálogo y la acción no solo dentro de la Iglesia, sino en las comunidades globales.