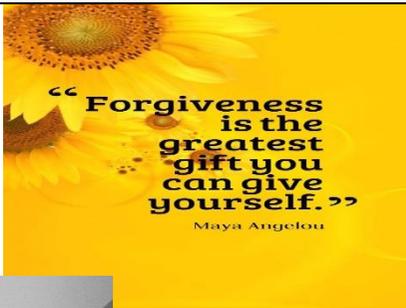
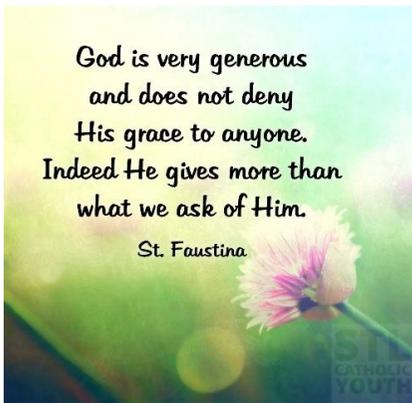


Post-it Challenge:

Why should we forgive others?



How can forgiveness bring peace?



St Faustina, a Polish saint of this century, was responsible for bringing to the world the concept of God's complete love for each one of us,

no matter what who we are or what we do. She explained this as His **'Divine mercy'**. As God looks upon this mixed up world and sees the mess mankind has made of everything, He offers us hope through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

Gospel: 2nd Sunday of Easter. Year A

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "**Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.**"

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "**Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**" *John 20:19-29*

Sunday of Divine Mercy



Reflection:

When Jesus appeared to His disciples after the Resurrection He offered them the gifts of peace, the Holy Spirit and forgiveness. Those same gifts from Jesus are given to us at Baptism - forgiveness of our sins, the Holy Spirit, and peace. We are called to be witnesses to Christ by our words and actions every single day. The apostle Thomas represents those of us who are sceptical about religion, doubtful and hot-headed. Thomas is intelligent and he asks for proof. He is seeking an understanding of his faith. When he finally encounters Jesus, he believes.

Jesus says:

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**"



Let us pray:

Dear God

If I hurt others, give me the strength to apologise.

If others hurt me, give me the strength to forgive.

We ask your mercy and compassion for all people who are working to build peace in their communities; that they may find the strength to carry on, even in the most difficult situations.

Amen