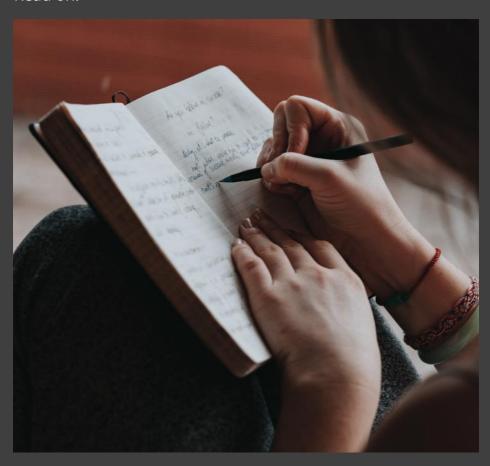


What is TALA-ARAWAN?

TALA-ARAWAN is the DICES weekly prayer diary.

TALA-ARAWAN features quotes from each day's Bible readings, reflection guide questions, daily challenges, and weekly features including games, trivia, and others.

Read on!





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April 18 to 24, 2022

Week 16 Monday to Sunday



April 18, 2022

Monday

First Reading Acts 2:14, 22-33

"... Neither was He abandoned to the netherworld nor did His flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11

You will not abandon my soul to the nether world, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

Monday in the Octave of Easter

Gospel Reading Matthew 28:8-15

They approached, embraced His feet, and did Him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid."

Reflection Guide Question

Why do you think the apostles were afraid when they saw the resurrected Jesus?

Challenge Of The Day

Today, give courage to someone you know who is afraid.

April 19, 2022

Tuesday

First Reading Acts 2:36-41

"... God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Our soul waits for the Lord who is our help and our shield. Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

Gospel Reading John 20:11-18

"Woman, why are you weeping?" ... "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid Him."

Reflection Guide Question

Are there times in your life when you weep because you cannot seem to find Jesus?

Challenge Of The Day

Today, console someone who is weeping because of grief.

April 20, 2022

Wednesday

First Reading Acts 3:1-10

"I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, rise and walk."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9

Give thanks to the Lord, invoke His name; make known among the nations His deeds. Wednesday in the Octave of Easter

Gospel Reading Luke 24:13-35

"Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Reflection Guide Question

Why is it important to study the Scriptures? How does Jesus open the Scriptures to us?

Challenge Of The Day

Today, renew your promise to do your best to read the Scriptures regularly.

April 21, 2022

Thursday

First Reading Acts 3:11-26

I know ... that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did ... Repent, therefore, and be converted ...

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 8:2, 5-9

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your name over all the earth! Thursday in the Octave of Easter

Gospel Reading Luke 24:35-48

> He stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Reflection Guide Question

When Jesus said, and when we say during Mass, "Peace be with you", what does it mean?

Challenge Of The Day

Today, do your part as a peacemaker and share God's peace with the people in your life.

April 22, 2022

Friday

First Reading Acts 4:1-12

Peter ... answered them,
"He (Jesus) is the stone
rejected by you, the
builders, which has
become the cornerstone."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Friday in the Octave of Easter

Gospel Reading John 21:1-14

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

Reflection Guide Question

Why do you think Peter "jumped into the sea" without hesitation?

Challenge Of The Day

Today, look upon your own faith with honesty and ask whether or not you are prepared to follow Jesus.

April 23, 2022

Saturday

First Reading Acts 4:13-21

"It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 118:1, 14-21

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. Saturday in the Octave of Easter

Gospel Reading Mark 16:9-15

> (Jesus) appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart ...

Reflection Guide Question

What can you do to soften the hardened heart of a loved one who is struggling with their faith?

Challenge Of The Day

Today, boldly proclaim to your family and friends about the goodness of the Lord.

April 24, 2022

Sunday

First Reading Acts 5:12-16

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

By the Lord has this been done ... This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

Second Reading Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

"Write down what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

Solemnity of Divine Mercy Sunday

Gospel Reading John 20:19-31

"Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Reflection Guide Question

Why do people find it difficult to believe in what they could not see?

Word of the Week

mercy

/ˈmərsē/

The word "mercy" originates from the Old French "mercit" or "merci" which has multiple meanings. In some cases, the term refers to a "reward" or a "gift"; in other cases, it refers to "kindness", "grace", or "pity".

The word "mercy" also originates from the Latin "mercedem" or "mercēs". In some cases, the term is used to refer to "wages", "pay", or "hire". In informal uses, the term is used to refer to "favor" or "pity". During the Medieval Age, the term is used to refer to "thanks" or "grace".

The word "mercy" also comes from the Latin "misericordia", which itself comes from "miseria", meaning "misery", and "cor", meaning "heart". Altogether, "mercy" in this context means "compassion" or "pity".



According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, "To say that a person is merciful is like saying that he is sorrowful at heart ("miserum cor"); that is, he is afflicted with sorrow by the misery of another as though it were his own. ... God cannot feel sorrow over the misery of others, but it does most properly belong to Him to dispel that misery, whatever form that shortcoming or deprivation takes".

References: Catholic Weekly (2015), Etymonline (2022), Summa Theologica (1911)



Quotes of the Week

On this feast of Divine Mercy, the most beautiful message comes from Thomas, the disciple who arrived late; he was the only one missing. But the Lord waited for Thomas. Mercy does not abandon those who stay behind.

Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of selfish indifference.





A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress.

The present pandemic, however, reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious. May we be profoundly shaken by what is happening all around us: the time has come to eliminate inequalities, to heal the injustice that is undermining the health of the entire human family!

Like the apostle Thomas, let us accept mercy, the salvation of the world. And let us show mercy to those who are most vulnerable; for only in this way will we build a new world.

—Pope Francis

Reference: Vatican News (2020)





It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday."

... It is not easy to love with a deep love, which lies in the authentic gift of self. This love can only be learned by penetrating the mystery of God's love. Looking at Him, being one with His Fatherly heart, we are able to look with new eyes at our

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brothers and sisters, with an attitude of unselfishness and solidarity, of generosity and forgiveness. All this is mercy!

... The message of divine mercy is also implicitly a message about the value of every human being. Each person is precious in God's eyes; Christ gave his life for each one; to everyone the Father gives His Spirit and offers intimacy."

—Saint John Paul II

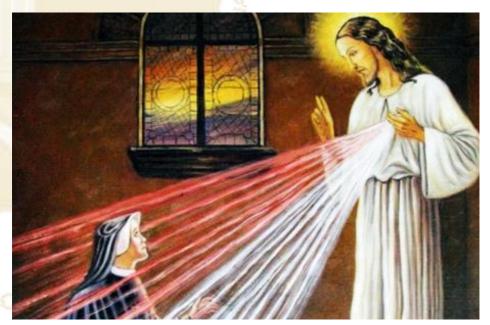
Reference: Divine Mercy Sunday—Homily of John Paul II (2001)

Saint of the Week

Saint Faustina Kowalska

"Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina Kowalska to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time." —Saint John Paul II

Saint Faustina Kowalska was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I.





Saint Faustina received extraordinary revelations or messages— from Jesus, who asked Saint Faustina to record these experiences. She compiled these revelations into notebooks, which are known today as the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, containing "God's loving message of Divine Mercy".

Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message in her Diary, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Reference: Divine Mercy Sunday—Homily of John Paul II (2001, The Divine Mercy (2022)

Prayer of the Week

O Jesus, I want to live in the present moment, to live as if this were the last day of my life. I want to use every moment scrupulously for the greater glory of God, to use every circumstance for the benefit of my soul. I want to look upon everything from the point of view that nothing happens without the will of God. God of unfathomable mercy, embrace the whole world and pour Yourself out upon us through the merciful Heart of Jesus.





... O Greatly Merciful God, Infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from the abyss of its misery to Your mercy, to Your compassion, O God; and it is with a mighty voice of misery that it cries out. Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles!

O Lord, Goodness beyond our understanding, Who are acquainted with our misery through and through and know that by our own power we cannot ascend to You, we implore You: fill us with Your grace and keep on increasing Your mercy





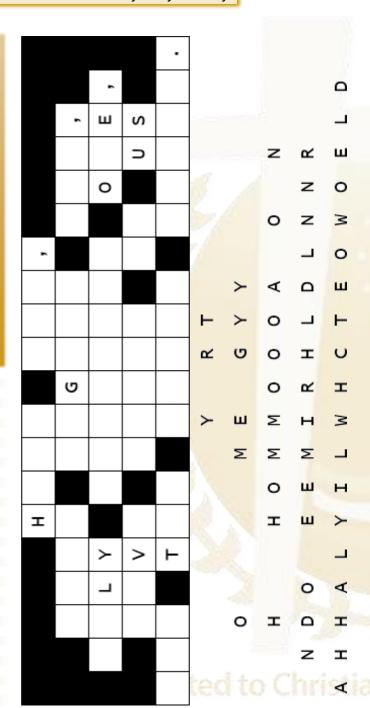
in us, that we may faithfully do Your holy will all through our lives and at the hour of death. Let the omnipotence of Your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as Your children, await Your final coming.

—Saint Faustina Kowalska (1934-1938)

Reference: Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska—Divine Mercy in My Soul (2005)

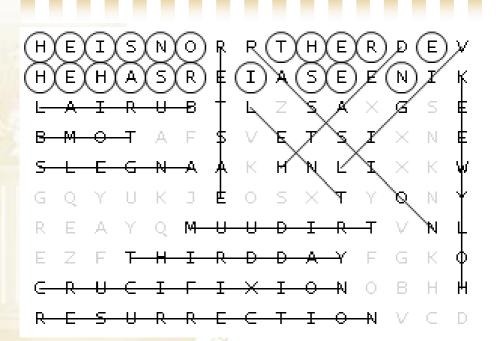
Game of the Week Fallen Phrase Puzzle

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message.



Last Week's Game

Hidden Message Word Search Puzzle



ANGELS, BURIAL, CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, EASTER, HOLY WEEK, LENT, PASSION, RESURRECTION, THIRD DAY, TOMB, TRIDUUM, VIGIL

HE IS NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN!

This puzzle is a word search that has a hidden message in it. First, find all the words in the list. Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.



DICES, let us pray.