



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
 from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
 9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$2811

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
 your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
 Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
 House Superior

SUNDAY OF THE DIVINE MERCY
Masses for the week of APRIL 7, 2024 – APRIL 13, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. April 7	10:00	Chris LaRubio & Elmer Ken Kim	
	12:00	Clifford Tavares+	Breda Walsh
Mon. April 8	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Deceased Loved Ones	
Tue. April 9	9:30	Family Mueller (Liv.)	Family Member
	11:45	Catarina Yuni Rhee	Cecilia Kay
Wed. April 10	9:30	Monica Kang Family	Cecilia Kay
	11:45	Gema Kim+	John Jung
Thurs. April 11	9:30	Tae Chung Birthday (Liv.)	John Jung
	11:45	Cezar Francisco III (Birthday/Son) Liv.	Cesar & Martina Francisco
Fri. April 12	9:30	Fr. Tom Hamill+	Sister
	11:45	Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Sat. April 13	9:30	Fr Jerome Bracken, CP (Liv.)	Friend
	11:45	Thomas and Jessica Lee Family (Liv.)	Juliana and Joseph Family

Today’s Readings:

First Reading Acts 4:32-35

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

We can be sure that we love God’s children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us.

Gospel John 20:19-31

Jesus said to Thomas, “You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024, HOLY HOUR at 8:00pm in main Chapel.

“Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Illustration

A young woman, who looked very emaciated, sat every morning at the lamppost outside Warren Street tube station in London. She begged for a few coins in an old, rather battered, McDonald’s cup. Wrapped up in an old blanket, she endured the cruel, cold wind which blew strongly between the tall buildings. Further down Tottenham Court Road, sleepers woke up from their restless sleep and stirred in their grubby sleeping bags with a few pieces of cardboard as their mattresses. Here and there, some had small tents which had been erected next to the shops to gain heat from the ventilation ducts.

Most people walked by the woman; some placed a few coins in her cup. Most days, James also passed by, not offering her any money, thinking that it would be misused, likely to be spent on alcohol or drugs. One day he gave her one pound. A few days later he did the same again and she asked, “Can you buy me a cup of coffee please?” Stirred by her pathetic face and her pleading question, he said “yes” and went into McDonald’s. Not having visited McDonald’s for years, he was now confronted with screens for placing an order and little human contact. Negotiating this, he walked out and gave the coffee to the young woman. “What is your name?”, he asked. “Tina”, she replied. The woman by the lamppost was afterwards always “Tina” and not just another anonymous face. He began to think more about her. The pattern repeated a few times and then she disappeared. He wondered, “What happened to Tina, is she dead or alive?”

Gospel Teaching

Thomas struggled to believe in Jesus, risen from the dead and the new life which he offered him. But Thomas’ doubt was even stronger, he was stubborn, he said, “Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my fingers in the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe”. He made demands of Jesus and the other apostles. Thomas was arrogant. It must have been a struggle to stay with those who believed and were full of joy. Now he found himself on the margins.

God relentlessly pursues those who try to escape from him, never abandoning them, and protecting them unceasingly under the shade of his outstretched hand. The risen Jesus seeks Thomas out to speak to him and prove that he is risen from the dead. He appears to Thomas and invites him to do exactly what he has demanded. Thomas touches the wounds of the risen Jesus and says, “My Lord and my God”. He believes.

We belong to the Body of Christ through baptism. This is not an abstract reality but real, earthy, and fleshy. We meet Christ when we love our brothers and sisters as neighbours. St Francis of Assisi, leaving his rich life behind, despised lepers in general. But when he kissed one leper whom he met on the road to Assisi, his bitterness was changed to sweetness. St Francis recognised him as having the same dignity as one of God’s children.

We do not see the risen Christ directly like Thomas and the others to whom he appeared for forty days. Rather we meet the risen Christ through prayer, his Word, the sacraments, and other people. We walk by faith and not by sight. We rejoice in being those people of whom Jesus says, “Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Living the Word

Thank you.- We are extremely grateful to all of you who always support us in our missionary work here at the Mission and especially in Africa. Thank you to all those you donated for the Easter flowers for special intentions and in memory of your loved ones. Also thank you to those who sent us messages and goodies.

May the risen Lord, bless you all.