

## I Peter 1.3-9

It's sometimes easy for us to forget the importance of the great festivals. It's only a week ago, but we might already have tuned out of the message of Easter. And yet it shouldn't be like this. When we arrive at church on Sunday, we should be constantly ready to celebrate the Resurrection. But it also means that we should have some introspection on a Friday. We might be reminded of Job. The rough and the smooth should be taken together, and just as we celebrate the greatness of God, we must also be prepared to be thoughtful and introspective. Lent should not be a great shock to our systems, and neither should great festivals. Instead, let's use everything we get from the Lord and be fed with everything he gives us.

## Elements of the Mass

### Aspergillum

The aspergillum refers to the brush or silver/brass ball on the end of stick which is dipped in the holy water bucket (aspersorium) so that the holy water can be sprinkled over people or objects. You will see the aspergillum used at baptisms to sprinkle the congregation or sometimes in the penitential rite at mass called the Asperges, when the priest sprinkles the congregation with holy water to remind them their sins are forgiven. The words that are sung are often translated as 'wash me', as we pray that we might be cleansed of our sins. During the Easter season the aspergillum is used at the beginning of mass for the ceremony called the 'Vidi Aquam'. The baptismal water blessed at the Easter Vigil is sprinkled over congregation who are reminded that in the book of Revelation the prophet sees water flowing from the right side of the Temple, just as water flowed from the right side of Christ on the Cross. By this water, the water of baptism, we are all saved.

### From the Fathers

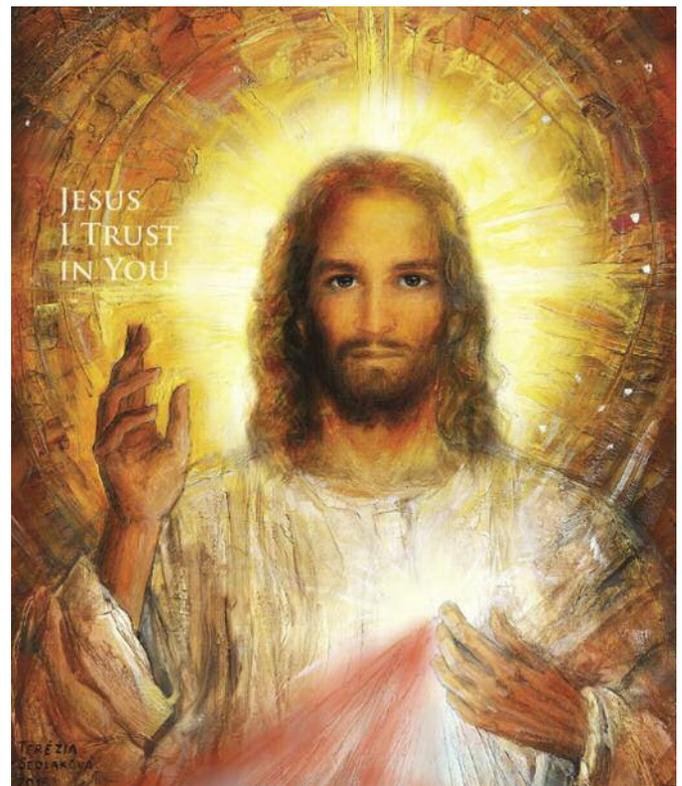
'He shared our flesh and blood in order that we might be partakers not only of his bodily existence but also of his divine grace. And in the end he conquered death so that all of us might win salvation and be enabled to say, "O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?"'

From *Catecheses* by St Cyril of Jerusalem (313-386, bishop, theologian)

19th April  
2020

Second Sunday  
of Easter  
Divine Mercy  
Sunday

## The Spirit



I think that we as the Catholic movement in the Church sometimes forget that we are all raving charismatics at heart. Notice the use of the small 'C'; I am not suggesting we secretly bring tambourines to Mass, and privately long to wave our arms in the air – though if you did, I doubt the Church would collapse around you... What I mean is that the entire system of sacramental worship that we hold dear, and fight for within the wider Church of England, is only operative and effective through the power of the Spirit! Without the Spirit our ritual actions are merely human endeavours stripped and devoid of their sanctifying power. We would be well served to hold this truth firmly in our hearts and minds, and not allow those around us to describe us as dry or stuffy – our churches are afire with the Spirit every time we celebrate our sacramental life together! Tradition is the passing on of the fire, not the preservation of the ashes, and we the heirs of Augustine of Canterbury, of Cuthbert, of Bede, of Anselm, of Wilfrid and Hilda, of Thomas Becket, these great saints of this land are a Spirit-led people. Be confident in that!