



In the prayers of the week after Easter we often refer to the newly baptised. In our context we had no baptism, confirmation or first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil this year. The prayer of the Mass on the Sunday after Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday reminded us of what has not been possible, of what people now wait for expectantly.

*God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.*

Those who were to become Catholics at Easter through Baptist or Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church are disappointed that they will have to wait for their Initiation. Easter morning is a time, too, for Infant Baptism, so their families now wait hopefully. With them there will be many young people who will have been looking forward to celebrate Confirmation in Eastertime, as well as those waiting expectantly for their First Communion. It is often too the season for the Sacraments of Marriage and of Holy Orders. While we have so much to pray for at this time let us also include them in our prayers that they are strengthened as they wait and know our concern and support. Think of ways to be with them.

Prayers from the celebration of these Sacrament – *for our prayers as we all wait*

ADULT BAPTISM and CONFIRMATION

Missal p.1182

O Lord,
who have graciously gathered into your priestly people
those you have conformed to the likeness of your Son
and perfected with the seal of Chrism,
be pleased, we ask you, to look upon them as acceptable sacrifices
and to receive them favorably with the offerings of your Church

FOR CONFIRMATION

Missal p. 1186

Receive in your mercy, O Lord,
the prayers of your servants
and grant that, being conformed more perfectly to your Son,
they may grow steadily in bearing witness to him,
as they share in the memorial of his redemption,
by which he gained for us your Holy Spirit.

FOR FIRST EUCHARIST*Missal p. 1185*

Open the door to your supper, O Lord,
for those who approach the bread that is prepared
and the wine that has been mixed,
so that, celebrating the heavenly banquet with gladness,
we may be numbered as fellow citizens of the Saints
and members of your household

FOR MARRIAGE*Missal p. 1236*

O God, who in creating the human race
willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants who are to be united
in the covenant of Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace,
witnesses to charity itself.

FOR ORDINATION AS A DEACON*Missal p. 1226*

O God, who have taught the ministers of your Church
to seek not to be served
but to serve their brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray, that this your servant
whom you graciously choose today
for the office of Deacon
may be effective in action,
gentle in ministry,
and constant in prayer.

FOR ORDINATION AS A PRIEST*Missal p. 1214*

Lord our God, who in governing your people
make use of the ministry of Priests,
grant a persevering obedience to your will
to this Deacon of your Church
whom you graciously choose today
for the office of the priesthood
so that by his ministry and life
he may gain glory for you in Christ.