

focus on sunday

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 1st JANUARY 2023

World Day of Peace

From the moment she was told she was to be the mother of God, Mary accepted God's plan for her with willingness and humility. May we learn to respond to God in this way.



Some people have a quiet and calming influence on us. They have the knack of putting worry in perspective and of giving us a good sense of ourselves. They are often silent carers, around at the time we need them.

Mary the mother of Jesus was one of these. All through the gospel she says little – only to help others like at the wedding of Cana when she calmly came to the couple's rescue when wine ran out. She was with the apostles in the secret, upper room for the days before the coming of the Holy Spirit, a quiet, confirming presence for people who were very afraid.

To be a good listener we need to have time for people – she seemed to have that as with Elizabeth her cousin, when she visited her before the birth of their children. We need to be interested in them as she was- in going to where the others were as in that scene at Pentecost. We need to know when to speak, as at Cana. She is the patron of listeners!

One of the greatest gifts we can give to another is to listen, with compassion. In a busy world of social media, the sympathy of real listening is often missed.

Open my ears and my heart O Lord to listen well.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.



and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

- and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. [R]
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. [R]
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. [R]

SECOND READING Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father,' and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to us ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth forever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.
May almighty God have mercy on us....Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."



This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL Ps 66:

R. O God, be gracious and bless us.

1. God, be gracious and bless us