

Mary, The Mother of God

Luke 1: 46-56

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

For he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant; henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is shown from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has routed those who are arrogant in the desires of their hearts.

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of Israel his servant, ever mindful of his merciful love, according to the promises he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her home.



May
Is The
Month Of Mary

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We focus on Mary this week as we enter the month of May. In the Scripture above, the pregnant Mary has gone to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John. The baby leaps in Elizabeth's stomach, knowing that the baby Mary is carrying is going to be special. This is where Mary praises God for all the great things that he has done, and where we get the word 'Blessed' for Mary.

May is the month that is dedicated to Mary in the Catholic Church. It is the month when we think about Mary and we try to be like her. Mary, the Mother of God, holds a special place in the hearts of Catholics. She is a model of faith, trust, and compassion, and we look to her as our loving mother and protector. Through her example, we learn to say "yes" to God's will and to care for one another as she cared for Jesus.

Mary teaches us to trust in God's plan, even when we do not understand it. Just as she cared for Jesus with great love, we are called to show kindness and compassion to everyone we meet. Let us remember that Mary always listens to our prayers and brings them before her Son, Jesus.

Mary is present at the joyful and sorrowful times of Jesus' life. She is with us too through these times. She is our Mother – Jesus told us this on the cross when he tells Mary to be the Mother of the Church.

Prayers for the Week

Heavenly Father,

We gather to honour Mary, the Mother of God. Help us to follow her example of faith and humility and let her prayers guide us closer to You.

Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, Now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us and help us to grow in faith, hope, and love. May we always trust in God's goodness, as you did, and share that love within our school and beyond.

Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church,

Watch over our school, our families, and our friends. Help us to grow in faith, to act with compassion, and to follow Jesus with joyful hearts. May your example inspire us and your prayers protect us.

Amen.



Can we live like Mary?

Mary's life is a story of faith lived with courage. She listened to God's call at the Annunciation and welcomed Jesus into the world at Bethlehem. She cared for Him in the quiet home of Nazareth and pondered His words in her heart. What do we do to show courage? Do we always listen to God's call? Do we welcome the stranger or smile to those we don't know? Are we caring and compassionate to those around us who need us?

Mary stood beside Jesus at Cana, encouraging others to listen to His voice. She remained faithful at the foot of the Cross, sharing in His suffering with a mother's love. And in the Upper Room, she prayed with the disciples as the Holy Spirit came upon the Church. Do we encourage others when they need it? Are we faithful to our hearts and words or do we change our mind when we feel like the odd one out? Do we try and help those who suffer, or do we turn a blind eye?

Mary is our model of discipleship and our gentle guide in prayer. Can we be a model of discipleship in our school community? In our homes? How? What can we do? Could we be more prayerful? When?

Because of Mary's faith and her closeness to Jesus, the Church honours Mary with many titles: Mother of God, Mother of the Church, Queen of Heaven, Seat of Wisdom, Star of the Sea, Help of Christians, and Comfort of the Afflicted. What title would you want people to know you as? What title would make you proud? Why?

