

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

FIRST READING: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 45.

RESPONSE:

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

1. The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. R
2. Listen, O daughter, pay heed and give ear;
forget your own people and your father's house. R
3. So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. R
4. They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. R

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoices. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 21 Aug St Pius X, P

Judges 2:11-19; Psalm 106; Matthew 19:16-22

Everyone of us is called to be interiorly detached from the things of this world in a complete way, even though we retain our possessions. We are called to strive for perfection, where love of God is our single possession.

Tue 22 Aug Queenship of Mary

Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 113; Luke 1:26-38

"... for our consolation we ought to remember that Mary is a most tender and kind Queen, eager to help us in our miseries. So much so, that the Church wants us to call her Queen of Mercy." – St Alphonsus Liguori

Wed 23 Aug (St Rose of Lima, V)

Judges 9:6-15; Psalm 21; Matthew 20:1-16

The cure for envy is wholehearted generosity. Not just generosity with our money but generosity with our affections and our ability to rejoice in the blessings that others receive. God is generous beyond comprehension.

Thu 24 Aug ST BARTHOLOMEW, A

Revelations 21:9-14; Psalm 145; John 1:45-51

Jesus never forces us to love him. It has to come from our own free choice. Love can only be offered, never forced. How have we accepted this tremendous gift Jesus has offered to us?

Fri 25 Aug (St Joseph of Calasanz, Pr)

Ruth 1:1,3-6,14-16,22; Psalm 146; Matthew 22:34-40

Have you ever been challenged by another about matters of faith? If so, what was your response? Were you able to respond, or did you walk away confused? Did it lead you to deeper understanding?

Sat 26 Aug Liturgy of the Day

Ruth 2:1-3,8-11; 4:13-17; Psalm 128; Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus is very clear: Greatness is found in servanthood; exaltation is enjoyed only through humility. Is the ideal lifestyle one of indulgence, entertainment, luxury, and the like? Not according to Jesus.

Sun 27 Aug 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 138; Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's personal faith in Jesus was not just something he heard from others, it was not just a popularly accepted opinion, it was something that the Father in heaven revealed to him. Who is Jesus to you?

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
P=Pope; V=Virgin; A=Apostle; Pr=Priest

Catholic Link

GOD WHO HEALS

Assumption of Our Lady • Year A
Divine Office: Week IV • 20 August 2023

Mary, Health of the Sick



Image by José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro

As a young priest on my first pilgrimage to Lourdes I was introduced to Mary, Health of the Sick. On the flight I found myself next to a nurse with two children. Inquiring about the children she told me her story.

She had had terminal cancer of the throat and decided, not to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes, but to go there to die and be buried. She had been lodged in the "Aisle", a clinic close to Mary's shrine. One day she was wheeled out semi-conscious to be present at the afternoon procession of the Blessed Sacrament and blessing of the sick. When the priest carrying the monstrance stopped by her mobile bed, something beyond words happened to her. She knew then that she would be all right. When wheeled back to the clinic, she was examined by the doctor and was found to be cured and all trace of her cancer gone. In thanksgiving to Our Lady, she resolved to bring some disabled children to Lourdes every year. Hence the two children with her on the airplane.

Catholics the world over know about Lourdes and the story of the apparitions of The Blessed Virgin to the little girl, Bernadette Soubirous, is now part of the treasury of the Church. But the devotion to Mary as Health of the Sick stretches back into the Middle Ages when plagues were frequent.

The instinct to turn to Mary in the face of illness stretches forward into our own day. The recent experience of the Covid 19 pandemic

prompted many to turn to Mary and her ministry to those affected by the disease. With the churches closed, many people found support and consolation praying at home or with friends online.

Our prayer and concern in the context of illness extends to those who care for the sick, those who live with the sick and those who feel called to pray for the sick.

Pope Francis led the way in March 2020 as Covid-19 rapidly spread, with his prayer to Mary, Health of the sick. We reproduced it here so that it can be used when appropriate:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross, united with Jesus' pain, kept your faith firm. You know our needs, and we trust that you will provide for them so that, as at Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us, He who took our sufferings upon Himself and burdened Himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

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