

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Monday 1 June 2020



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The Second Vatican Council presented the Virgin Mary in its document on the Church and in 1964 proclaimed the title Mother of the Church. Mary became the Mother of the Church and us all when Christ dying on the Cross said to Saint John: "This is your mother." This memorial, on the day after Pentecost, remembers her maternal presence among the disciples of Christ from the beginning of their ministry.

As a loving mother Mary was there to support her son whenever possible. The pain she must have felt at the foot of the cross watching her son die for preaching compassion, forgiveness, care for the poor by his life, must have been unbearable. Just as Mary was there for Jesus she is there for each one of us in times off difficulty. We are the Church and she is always ready to hear our prayer and intercede for us whatever our struggles and pains. She also rejoices when we are at peace.

The Collect A (Monday 1 June 2020)

O God, Father of mercies,
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,
to be our Mother also,
grant, we pray, that with her loving help
your Church may be more fruitful day by day
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,
may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

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Gospel Reading John 19:25-34, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said:

'I am thirsty.'

A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished'; and bowing his head he gave up the spirit.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath since the sabbath was a day of special solemnity the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then the other. When they came to Jesus, they found that he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

Antiphon The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

A wedding was held in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; then Jesus performed the first of his signs and manifested his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Music links to the Scripture Readings

[Hail Mary, Gentle Woman](#) - Carey Landry

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