

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Saturday 20 June



## About this Solemnity

Today's Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a companion feast to yesterday's Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saint Margaret Mary Alcoque played a significant role in expanding the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saint John Eudes, a priest and contemporary of Saint Mary, played his part in making devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart part of the life of the universal Church.

This feast of Mary celebrates Mary as the model of ready acceptance of God's will in all life's circumstances. When Mary presented the baby Jesus to the temple, forty days after His birth, Simeon tells her that her heart will be pierced by a sword (Luke 2:35) and Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

In her heart Mary treasured the Lord's deeds and words, and it is also the place of her anguish, in witnessing to the sufferings of her Son.

## How can we apply the meaning of Mary's Immaculate Heart to our life in this time?

In Jesus' heart, we find a boundless love of mercy and compassion. In Mary's heart we find a boundless concern for the sorrows that consume us all. The Friar Servants of Mary have a line in their constitution that says something like: Mary still stands at the foot of those countless crosses, where Christ is still being Crucified in our brothers and sisters today. Mary not only stands at the foot of those crosses, but weeps and consoles those experiencing pain and grief. We are called to be like Mary pondering things in our heart. Thinking before we speak or act and standing by other people's crosses, supporting and encouraging others when they need it most. In this way, we can be true servants and disciples of the Lord, just as Mary is.

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### Collect

O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. 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. Amen.

### Gospel Luke 2:41-51

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a **day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.** Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart.

### Antiphon

Mary treasured all these words, reflecting on them in her heart.

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## Hymn for the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Mary, you have pondered  
within your spotless heart  
words that to you were spoken  
and silence played its part.  
May we receive that same Word  
that Christ may in us dwell,  
and in the world and our hearts  
**His peace we'll find as well.**

O Mary, you have shown us  
how to respond with faith  
to our joys and our sorrows  
and shun our sinful state.  
May we, like you, rely on  
the Spirit as our guide,  
**and with you and with Christ's Saints**  
in Him ever abide.

76.76D

Possible Tunes: Aurelia, St Theodulph  
Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono, April 2020.

## Music links to the Scripture Readings

[Song of Mary](#) - Dan Schutte

Published by OCP- [www.ocp.org](http://www.ocp.org)

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