

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8 September



About Nativity of Mary

This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century and was a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of Saint Anne (Mary's Mother), built in Jerusalem where Mary was born. This feast was observed in Rome from the seventh century, and it was later used to determine the date of Mary's Immaculate Conception (8 December). Mary played an integral part in the history of salvation and so her birthday is one of three celebrated in the liturgical calendar together with those of her son Jesus and John the Baptist (24 June).

How can we apply the feast of the Nativity of Mary to our lives today?

Mary was immaculately conceived and from the moment of her birth she always responded faithfully and resoundingly with a 'yes' to whatever God asked. She could have chosen to do things her own way and only think of herself, but she did not. Mary was ever the gracious and humble servant of the Lord. In those moments when we really do not feel like helping people we can turn to Mary, our Mother and follow her example. It is interesting to note that the readings for this feast focus on Jesus and not Mary. That might have some of us confused, that we hear the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel story for this feast and not how Mary came to be born. However, these readings serve as a reminder to us all that Mary was a faithful servant and Mother of the Lord and that she was a part of our salvation, not the total of it.

Collect

Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord,
the gift of heavenly grace,
that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
may bring deeper peace
to those for whom the birth of her Son
was the dawning of salvation.
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.

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Gospel

Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

The ancestry and conception of Jesus Christ

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar being their mother,

Perez was the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram was the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his mother,

Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his mother,

Obed was the father of Jesse;

and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,

Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,

Joram the father of Azariah,

Azariah was the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah;

and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

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After the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor was the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob;
and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary;
of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born.
His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph;
but before they came to live together
she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.
Her husband Joseph;
being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity,
decided to divorce her informally.
He had made up his mind to do this
when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.
She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus,
because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'
Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'

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Antiphon

Behold, the Virgin will bear a son,
who will save his people from their sins.

Hymn for the Feast of the Nativity Mary

Mary, we rejoice on this day,
the day of your glorious birth,
for that gives to us a great sign,
Christ will soon come to us on earth.

Mary, perfect model of grace,
leading us closer to your Son,
may we follow His path and way
that our salvation may be won.

Mary, free from the stain of sin,
throughout your whole life here on earth,
responding with faith to God's call,
as you prepared for the Christ's birth.

Like you, Mary, may we respond
with joy and trust to what we're asked
by the Lord in our daily lives
and to His ways ever hold fast.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
LM 88.88 Angel's Song

Other Music Suggestion

[My Soul Rejoices](#) (Owen Alstott)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

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