

Our Lady of Sorrows 15 September



About Our Lady of Sorrows

This feast originated in the medieval devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary. It was approved for the Order Servants of Mary (Servite Order) in the seventeenth century. Under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows, Mary is the patroness of that Order. This feast was extended to the entire Western Church in 1814 by Pope Pius VII in thanksgiving for his release from captivity under Napoleon.

Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce Mary's heart (Luke 2:35) and so this feast celebrates Mary as the first disciple and the first to share in the pain and exaltation of her Son's Cross.

How can we apply the feast of the Our Lady of Sorrows to our lives today?

In their Constitution, the Servite Friars have written the following:

"In our commitment of service, the figure of Mary at the foot of the cross shall be our model. Since the Son of Man is still being crucified in his brothers and sisters, we, Servants of his mother, wish to be with her at the foot of those countless crosses to bring comfort and redemptive cooperation." (Servite Constitution para. 299).

When Mary stood at the foot of her Son's Cross, she shed tears for her Son. She did not run away – instead, she accompanied him in his darkest hour and was focused on Jesus, not herself. Mary stands at the foot of countless crosses of our brothers and sisters who are constantly persecuted. In our hour of need we would like someone to stand in solidarity with us and comfort us. Likewise, we must be willing to stand in solidarity with our neighbour and help them in their time of need without counting the cost of time, money, or other resources. In this way, we will be a true disciple of Christ and model Mary, the Mother of Sorrows.

Prayer

At the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.

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Collect

O God, who willed
that, when your Son was lifted high on the Cross,
his Mother should stand close by and share his suffering,
grant that your Church,
participating with the Virgin Mary in the Passion of Christ,
may merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

John 19:25-27

Woman, this is your son

**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.**

Antiphon

When I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

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Hymn for the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

Mary, Mother, you stood in sorrow,
by the Cross of your only Son,
He who hung high on Mount Calvary
where our salvation would be won.
Mary in our grief we turn to you,
and ask you to stand by our cross.

Mary, Mother, you stood in sorrow,
by the foot of that Holy Cross,
shedding tears while the crowd around you
laughed and jeered, ignoring your loss.
Mary in our grief we turn to you,
and ask you to stand by our cross.

Mary, Mother, you stood in sorrow,
with the disciple whom he loved:
"Woman, this man will be your Son now."
"Son, this is your Mother beloved."
Mary in our grief we turn to you,
and ask you to stand by our cross.

Mary, now you stand by our crosses
helping us to bear crushing weight:
lifting from us our daily burden
helping us to face cruel fate.
Mary in our grief we turn to you,
and ask you to stand by our cross.

May we like you stand by our neighbour,
helping them in their time of need,
sharing in their suffering and sorrow,
nor count the cost of a good deed.
In their grief when others turn to us,
may we always stand by their cross.

Picardy

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Other Music Suggestion

[Song of Mary](#) (Dan Schutte)

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