

The Presentation of Mary 21 November



About the Feast of the Presentation of Mary

Today's memorial originally marked the dedication of a church to the Virgin Mary (in the sixth century), near the Temple of Jerusalem. The Eastern Church took the commemoration of this dedication as a celebration of Mary's presentation to God in the Temple when she was three years old. The Presentation of Mary is a non-biblical story from the apocryphal gospel of James. The Western Church established this feast in the late Middle Ages, and it became observed in the Universal Church in the sixteenth century.

What can we learn from the Presentation of Mary?

This memorial celebrates Mary in her grace-filled life, completely given over to God from the moment of her conception. We, too, are given the opportunity to make choices. We can follow God's Way, or we can choose to do things the hard way and do them on our own. Mary did not blindly go along with things, but she did trust that God's will was the way for her. We, too, must let God accompany us on daily journey and turn everything over to Him.

Today's memorial is the patronal feast of the Presentation Sisters. They were founded on 24 December 1775, by Nano Nagle in County Cork. These women, like Mary, responded to the Lord's call and went out to distant places to educate children. In Nano's time, the Penal Laws were still in force in Ireland, meaning that Catholic education had to be done in secret. Nano, like Mary, handed everything over to the Lord's providence. Let us pray for the Presentation Sisters who have played a pivotal role in Catholic Education in our State and give thanks to God for the wonderful service they have given.

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Collect

As we venerate the glorious memory
of the most holy Virgin Mary,
grant, we pray, O Lord, through her intercession,
that we, too, may merit to receive
from the fullness of your grace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 12:46-50

My mother and my brothers are anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven

Jesus was speaking to the crowds when his mother and his brothers appeared;
they were standing outside and were anxious to have a word with him.

But to the man who told him this Jesus replied,

'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?'

And stretching out his hand towards his disciples he said,

'Here are my mother and my brothers.

Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven,

he is my brother and sister and mother.'

Antiphon

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the eternal Father.

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Hymn for All Souls' Day

Presented in the Temple,
you said "Yes" to the Lord,
for Mary you would listen
and keep His Holy Word.
You were conceived without sin
and lived a grace-filled life,
obedient to the Lord's will
which saved you from all strife.

You gave your life entirely
to God, the Three in One;
obedient to the Father
and caring for His Son.
You let the Holy Spirit
guide you throughout your days:
a life of faithful service,
each day giving God praise.

To let Christ enter our life
daily we must prepare
with charity and kindness
combined with frequent prayer.
For we encounter Christ in
our neighbour most in need,
to them with good example,
we put flesh on our Creed.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Other Music Suggestion

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

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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