

# Magazine



## **AVE MARIA! The First Issue of A Day With Mary Magazine**

Welcome to the very first issue of this humble online magazine! It is a new venture of this little apostolate. We hope that you will enjoy it.

It aims at keeping all in touch, especially while the Covid restrictions persist. These restrictions prevent us from meeting together in churches, shrines and cathedral and of course on DWM pilgrimages. But these restrictions will not last forever, they will come to an end with the end of the pandemic and with that will come the reopening of the

churches and church halls, hopefully, in the not too distant future. And the Day With Mary will resume!

We are all part of the Day With Mary family of Our most Blessed Mother, the Mother of our Lord Jesus. They love us all from Their Hearts. A Day With Mary could not be made to happen without you. All of us are the little lovers of the Immaculate.

This magazine is not produced by “professionals” but by unprofessional amateurs (!), who do this

little work freely out of love for Our Lady. It will be produced on an as-and-when-possible basis, at least initially.

Why “online”? Because it allows us to publish not only printed text but also audio and video material. It can be accessed on ipad/tablet as well as smartphone and computer. It is also easier and cost-free to distribute and to pass on to your friends and contacts, just send them the link from your smartphone/computer. You may also print it though of course this will not allow access to the audio and video contents.

It is since mid-March this year (2020) that the DWM has been placed suddenly on hold by the national Covid lockdown and continuing restrictions. We can't wait to start again. As already published in the 2020 Poster's September-update,

since April the DWM team continues to meet three times a week via Zoom, to pray plan and improve for the future and is on standby, ready to resume. The DWM van is kept fuelled up and ready to go as soon as the chequered flag is waved; essential maintenance is carried out on the equipment for Our Lady's “Day”.

And finally: the work of grace of A Day With Mary could not be done without you. Your prayers and your material help are needed to enable the DWM to stay afloat while on hold. Like other organisations the DWM has ongoing expenses even while on hold. Perhaps you may consider joining those who have graciously responded already or help again if you can. Kindly see the donation spot in this magazine. Thank you!

*Ave Maria!*

**2** A Day With Mary Is...

**4** Bringing 'A Day With Mary' to Your Home!

**7** The experience of a pilgrim friend attending DWM for years

**8** The Advent Wreath

**10** The Day With Mary Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

**12** Fatima Message in the Pandemic of 2020

**19** When Things go Wrong...

**20** Mary, My Mother

**27** Have you met young Carlo yet?

**29** Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres y Berriochoa



## A Day With Mary is...

...a day of instruction, devotion and intercession based on the message given by Our Lady at Fatima in 1917. A Day With Mary was founded in England in 1986. It is a day of prayer held in a Catholic church or shrine, and open to all. It emphasizes worship of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to

Our Lady. You are welcome to join the event for a little while or for the whole day.

A DAY WITH MARY includes Holy Mass, the Rosary, meditations on the Passion, Eucharistic adoration and benediction, processions of the Blessed Sacrament and of Our Lady,

an act of consecration to Our Lady, catechetical instruction, liturgical and popular hymns, a video on the story of Fatima (where advertised) and periods of rest with refreshments. The Sacrament of Penance is readily available. There is a Catholic bookstall and repository, and the opportunity to enrol in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Miraculous Medal if so wished.

### The words of the Magisterium on Our Lady

The sublime words of the Church that decreed the beautiful Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (a dogma that Catholics are expected to believe under pain of mortal sin). These words also reveal to us a glimpse of “Who” Our Lady is “in God’s mind”, rather than in our own human minds. God “conceived” Her to be Immaculate since before the creation of the Universe, for “the Church made it clear indeed that the conception of Mary is to be venerated as something extraordinary, wonderful, eminently holy, and different from the conception of all other human beings”. Therefore Adam and Eve were not conceived by God with the same degree of grace which He granted to Our Lady alone. She is His Conception Immaculate, conceived to remain always

Immaculate and cannot become “stained” like Eve, an absolute concept of “whiteness” rather than “white” in God’s mind.

*“From the very beginning, and before time began, the eternal Father chose and prepared for his only-begotten Son a Mother in whom the Son of GOD would become incarnate and from whom, in the blessed fullness of time, he would be born into this world...”*

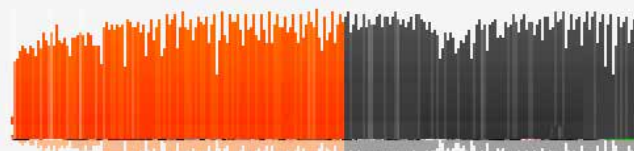
*Therefore, far above all the angels and all the saints so wondrously did God endow her with the abundance of all heavenly gifts poured from the treasury of his divinity that this mother, ever absolutely free of all stain of sin, all fair and perfect, would possess that fullness of holy innocence and sanctity than which, under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully...*

*To her did the Father will to give his only-begotten Son - the Son whom, equal to the Father and begotten by him, the Father loves from his heart - and to give this Son in such a way that he would be the one and the same common Son of God the Father and of the Blessed Virgin Mary...”*

Ineffabilis Deus, Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX solemnly defining the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 1854.



From Bystander to Apostle of the Immaculate - Personal true life account by a DWM team member



▶ 100,971 | ♥ 1,517



DOWNLOAD

# Divine Maternity of Our Lady by Fr Linus Clovis



[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid1](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid1)



A Day With Mary (DWM) is the exterior expression of our interior life with the Immaculate Heart of Her for Whom God created the whole of creation to redeem it through Jesus and Her: the Immaculate Conception. The DWM is the exterior expression of our interior response to Her love, and it will be the more fruitful the more it will be void of us and full of Her. The DWM is the day in which we console our God, so much offended by our sins. The DWM is the day in which we return to God and it is the day in which we find God even for the first time.

The DWM is the day full of happiness of our Mother Who keeps us united to Her, close to Her Son in the sacraments and upon the altar. The DWM is the day when we dry the tears of our Mother and make Her smile out of consolation and laugh out of joy. The

DWM is the day in which we console our Mother Whose Heart is surrounded by thorns because of the offenses and blasphemies against Her. It is the day when we remove the thorns from Her Heart. The DWM is the day when we rise out of the daily natural and enter into the divine supernatural for which we were created of and which we lost because of our sin, and of which we hope one day the Lord will grace us for eternity.

The DWM is the feast-day, truly happy and celestial, of our most sweet little guardian angel. We have him, by divine disposition, accompanying and looking after us always and everywhere. For just this DWM it is us who allow him to go no longer to our places of work, of study, shopping or other places of the world, but we bring him with us in church to do that which he truly loves doing: to adore his

God and to honour his Queen and, thanks to our presence together with him, increase this way the glory of God. This is the highest premium for our guardian angel.

To do the DWM is the best way to honour, and if necessary, to convert, physically and spiritually succour, and give glory to our parents and relatives, near and far, living and dead.

Our devotion to Our Lady is just our poor response to the immense devotion that She has towards us. Let us remember that we do exactly nothing for Her: She is already in heaven, crowned by the Most Holy Trinity as Queen of the Angels, of the saints and of the whole human race, Queen of the Universe; what could we ever do, us sinners and mortals, for Her? Has She not got everything already? Did She not already have

everything when on this earth? Yes: She had Jesus, God One and Triune in Her and with Her. Now it is allowed to us to have one day with Her: A Day With Mary. A small part of that which Jesus Himself has had every day for the most part, the formative part, of His earthly life. May we too do the same within our hearts and in the best possible way, every day of our earthly life.

The DWM is the exterior expression of our interior DWM. It is necessary to desire and practice a good interior life and to have the wish to become saints in order to make God's gifts bear fruit.

***Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning  
is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.***





# Bringing 'A Day With Mary' to Your Home!

We know that many people are greatly missing the 'Days With Mary' as they continue to be suspended due to Covid-19. Now, however, we have some exciting good news that we hope will bring joy and consolation to many, whilst we pray that we may soon be able to gather together once again to honour Our Lady and Her Son Jesus.

A new CD, recorded by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate, with a wide selection of many of the best-loved and most beautiful 'A Day With Mary' hymns is soon to be released and YOU CAN PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

The CD is currently in its final stages of production and will be sent to all those who pre-order as soon as it becomes available. Order now to avoid disappointment! Place your order online via the 'Holy Cross Bookshop' by simply clicking on this link:

[www adaywithmary.org/hymns](http://www adaywithmary.org/hymns)

By purchasing this CD, you will also be making a difference to the lives of the children in the home run by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate in Brazil! The sisters there currently care for about 20 girls, aged between 5 and 18 years old, most of whom come from the Brazilian 'Favelas' and many from truly heart-breaking family situations such as drug or alcohol abuse, general neglect, and a high risk of child prostitution. The sisters in England were shocked to hear the episodes that Sr. M. Rachele, the visiting missionary, recounted to them when she came on a break earlier this year! Half of the CD proceeds will go to

help them to raise the £20,000 needed to help cover the annual fees for the children, the greatest part of the expenses are for their schooling fees. Previously the government provided assistance for the Home but, due to the impact of Covid-19, they have now said they can no longer provide any help, so please be generous! The sisters are trying to better the lives of these children, to provide them with knowledge of God, a sound education and, God-willing, a hope-filled future!

In this article, you will also find out about the making of this CD, since it was nothing short of a miracle obtained through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and the powerful aid of St. Joseph! Read on to discover the incredible story!

## ITE AD JOSEPH

"After the Mother of God, St. Joseph is, of all the saints, the one dearest to God. He has, therefore, great power with Him and can obtain graces for His devout clients..." - St. Alphonsus Liguori  
The Community of sisters in Catford has experienced the paternal assistance of St. Joseph in a very special way. For many years, pilgrims attending the 'Days With Mary' (DWM) had been asking if there was a CD available with the hymns that are often sung, several people also wanted to bring it back to their native countries because they were migrating and wanted to keep re-living the day. The DWM team had looked into the possibility of producing a CD but the cost was too expensive for them, several discussions with a recording professional had fallen through and at the time not enough sisters could be found either who

were available and could help to sing, especially since sisters were needed who knew English hymns.

One Saturday, in April of 2016, a lady approached one of the sisters at the DWM and, like many others, asked if there was a CD of DWM hymns available. When the sister said there was not, she pursued the matter, asking what was needed to make one. The sister explained that funds were lacking and half-jokingly, told her to pray to St. Joseph. You can imagine the sister's surprise when, on the following Saturday, the same lady returned to speak to her at the DWM, telling her, "Sister, I've found the money"! She proceeded to say that she and her friend, Josephine, had put together the money needed! The sum was transferred to the DWM account, but unfortunately the project remained stagnant, as despite various attempts, the necessary help could never be successfully organised.

Over the years, the kind lady who had donated the money kept asking if we had produced the CD and, with some embarrassment, we always had to tell her we were still trying – luckily, she was understanding and, with great faith, kept praying that we would succeed. Discussions went back and forth, but nothing ever materialised. We even offered to return the money, seeing that the project was looking impossible! The lady refused, however, saying, in a spirit of faith, that we had to get it done no matter what. Eventually, in May 2019, Mother decided that if we ever wanted to get this project completed, we needed to implore powerful divine help! It was decided to start a novena to St Joseph, to be recited every day until we received the desired grace. We started the novena and the weeks and months continued to go by...

Then, unexpectedly, in early December it seemed a door began to open when permission was given for two sisters to come from Italy to help with the

recording. The months leading up to Christmas are always very busy for us in Catford because the Holy Cross religious bookshop that we volunteer at, has its greatest amount of activity at this time, so we had to work hard to try and organise the CD recording at the same time! We were given two weeks' notice before the sisters were due to arrive from Italy on December 18th and had to find music scores, a sound engineer and a recording location! Phew, talk about pressure! After doing some frantic research and making various phone calls without success, our faithful DWM organist, Andrew Cesana, gave us the contact of a friend of his, Mr. Christopher Town, who quickly said he would be happy to help us. He checked his diary, and the only date he had available for the recording was December 23rd! It was at this point that one sister in the community recounted that, during the daily St. Joseph novena, she would pray for the realisation of the CD but also added that the request be realised specifically "within this year", i.e. 2019! We then understood that this really was a grace from St Joseph, who had even taken notice of this little detail, and suddenly provided us with this date for the recording just some days before the close of the year. It did mean, however, that our little choir would have to learn and practise all the songs within merely 4 days!!

Now, what about a recording venue? Eventually we contacted the Benedictine Abbey of Farnborough, located just outside London, which we knew has both an excellent organ and good acoustics, but we were unsure as to whether the monastic community would give us permission just before Christmas. We

contacted the Abbot and incredibly, and very kindly, he said yes straight away. Amazingly, only afterwards we suddenly realised that that very Abbey is England's official national shrine to St. Joseph! Clearly, he had desired this recording to be done there, under his patronage. There happened to be an organ concert at the Abbey on December 14th and Mr. Town went to see what the place was like, and despite having spent the evening completely frozen (all the other people brought blankets), he was won over and agreed to the location! We sisters were absolutely delighted!

On December 18th, two sisters arrived from one of our communities in Rome, which coincidentally is dedicated to "St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary", and the next few days were spent in virtually non-stop song practise! We also tried to enlist some extra help, but after a couple of days of practise one of the two sopranos was no longer able to help us. It was two days before the recording and we had no idea where we could find another soprano to replace her. We tried calling various people we know, and other contacts that they passed on to us, but no one was available, so again we turned to St. Joseph for help and all of us, including the two new arrivals, knelt before an altar of St. Joseph to beg him to help us solve the problem. By the afternoon of the next day, another soprano had been found! It was grace after grace and we couldn't stop thanking St Joseph!

The 23rd of December arrived and we left London straight after a 7:00 Mass, to make our way to the Abbey, meeting some of the members of the DWM team there. It was a very cold day, but we found that the Abbey was even colder

inside than outside! Being an old building, it has no heating, and only the organist was lucky enough

to have a small electric heater near him. We sisters were buried (who more and who less!) beneath scarves and mantles, and it was quite amusing to see the streams of steam coming forth from our mouths as we sang! It took longer than expected to set up all the equipment, but eventually we began and when we heard the sound produced by the Abbey's acoustics we truly felt that even that was a grace of St. Joseph because the seven of us sounded like a choir of more sisters!

With the generous effort and cooperation of all involved, including the great charity of the monks who allowed us to use the Abbey though they had all the Christmas preparations to be put in place for the next day, we persevered and finally finished the recording at 11pm. It had been a long day, and we were exhausted, but filled with gratitude and wonderment at St. Joseph. Mr. Christopher Town, the recording artist, never showed any sign of impatience or made any complaint, despite having to be in that freezing temperature and constantly on his feet until so late at night – on the contrary, he showed a great appreciation for the sacred music and appeared very happy by the end of it. We later found out that he has done many recordings of a very high standard, including recordings for the Royal College of Music and several prestigious choirs, and is himself a very gifted musician and choir director. All of us were extremely struck when we met him by his great simplicity, goodness and humility, he even refused the donation given towards his generous work and, instead, put it towards the cost of the CD production!

We pray that the CD will be enjoyed by many and especially that it will be an aid to people in their prayer, thus to help spread love and devotion to our Blessed Mother and, through Her, to Her Son Jesus. May Her Immaculate Heart triumph! Ave Maria!

## A Day With Mary (DWM)

*"On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1925, the Most Holy Virgin appeared to her [Lucia], and by her side, elevated on a luminous cloud, was a child. The Most Holy Virgin rested her hand on her shoulder, and as she did so, she showed her a heart encircled with thorns, which she was holding in her other hand. At the same time, the Child said: 'Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them'. Then the Most Holy Virgin said: 'Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me'".*

*From Fatima in Lucia's Own Words, Segretariado dos Pastorinhos [Postulation Office], Fatima, Portugal, 12th ed., January 2002, p.194.*

The DWM seeks to respond to the above-mentioned request and also that of Our Lady at Fatima in June 1917: "Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace it, and those souls will be loved by God like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne". A DWM is a lay-driven apostolate which began in England in 1986 and which organises public days of prayer, open to all, every Saturday in a Catholic Church or Shrine. The DWM emphasizes worship of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Our Lady as approved by the Catholic Church. It includes the Mass, Rosary, meditations on the Passion, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, processions of the Blessed Sacrament and of Our Lady, Act of Consecration, instructions in the Faith and on Our Lady in particular, hymns, and periods of rest with refreshments. The Sacrament of Confession is readily available. There is a bookstall and the opportunity to enrol in the Brown Scapular (consecration to Our Lady) and to be conferred with the Miraculous Medal if one wishes to do so. For more information and to view videos of sermons and more, please visit [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org)

*This is a fundraising CD which has not been sung by professionals, it is rather a prayer of the heart raised to God and an expression of love for our Blessed Mother.*

*We hope, by these sacred hymns, to help souls to better love and praise the Lord and His Holy Mother.*

*May all souls find in Mary's Immaculate Heart that refuge She promised for those who entrust themselves to Her and, through our loving response to Her maternal appeals made at Fatima, may Her Immaculate Heart triumph!*

# HYMNS

FROM

## A DAY WITH MARY

SUNG BY THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE



# HYMNS

FROM

## A DAY WITH MARY

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> of May (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)
2. This is the Image (Henri Friedrich Hemy)
3. Litany of Loreto (Anon)
4. Veni Creator Spiritus (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)
5. Madonna of Czestochowa (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)
6. Sweet Sacrament Divine (Francis Stanfield)
7. O Sacrament Most Holy (Nancy Benvenga)
8. First Prayer of the Angel of Fatima (Shrine of Fatima)
9. Benedictus (Noel Darros) / Lauda Jerusalem (A. Desbordes)
10. Raise Your Voices (Andrew Cesana)
11. Ave Maria, O Maiden, O Mother (Andrew Cesana)
12. God of Mercy and Compassion (Giovanni Battista Pergolesi)
13. Godhead Here in Hiding (Charles Gounod)
14. I'll See Her There One Day (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)
15. In Paradisum (Plainchant)
16. O Virgin of the Rosary (Unknown)
17. Salve Regina (Andrew Cesana)

1

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> of May (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)



2. This is the Image (Henri Friedrich Hemy)



3. Litany of Loreto (Anon)



4. Veni Creator Spiritus (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)



5. Madonna of Czestochowa (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)



6. Sweet Sacrament Divine (Francis Stanfield)



7. O Sacrament Most Holy (Nancy Benvenga)



8. First Prayer of the Angel of Fatima (Shrine of Fatima)



9. Benedictus (Noel Darros) / Lauda Jerusalem (A. Desbordes)



10. Raise Your Voices (Andrew Cesana)



11. Ave Maria, O Maiden, O Mother (Andrew Cesana)



12. God of Mercy and Compassion (Giovanni Battista Pergolesi)



13. Godhead Here in Hiding (Charles Gounod)



14. I'll See Her There One Day (Sr. M. Cecilia Pia Manelli)



15. In Paradisum (Plainchant)



16. O Virgin of the Rosary (Unknown)



17. Salve Regina (Andrew Cesana)



**Support the Sisters, order the CD at:**  
[www adaywithmary.org/hymns](http://www adaywithmary.org/hymns)



DWM Westminster Cathedral 2016

## The experience of a pilgrim friend who has been attending Days With Mary regularly for many years

My first encounter with A Day with Mary was almost twenty years ago. When I completed my studies and was working in my current Parish, I picked up one of the DWM annual list of Saturday venues and pilgrimages for the whole year. I decided to attend the next Saturday which was not far from me.

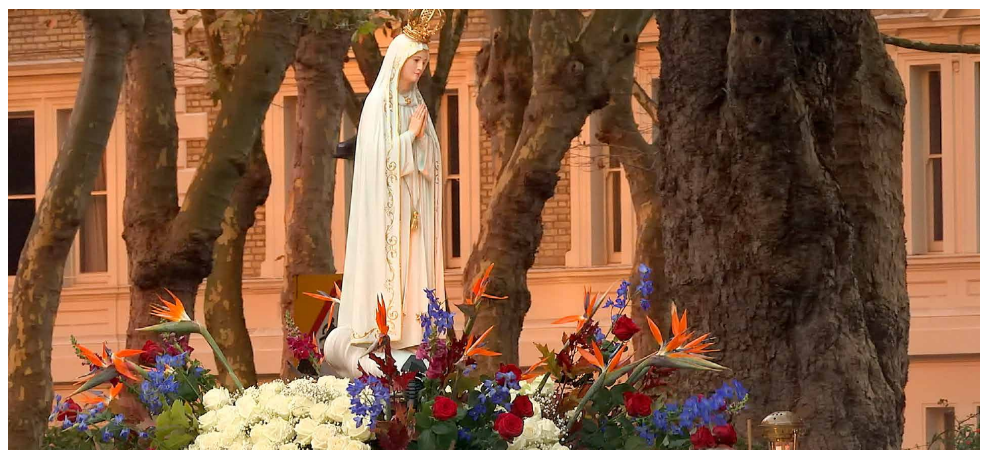
It was very inspirational to me. I then attended the weeks following and I was completely hooked by the calmness I experienced. I then decided to devote my Saturdays to Our Lady. I was also impressed by the opportunity to travel to various Churches in different parts of England and to pilgrimages abroad to Fatima, Holy Land and Italy. There are also symposiums arranged during the years whenever possible. There is also Sunday travel to Walsingham, National Shrine which I love to attend once a year. I am still enjoying every aspect of it even under this pandemic situation with the Zoom talks.

The Saturday programs are very spiritual and also inspirational. The program starts with the procession of the statue of Our Blessed Mother into the Church which is sometimes followed by recitation of

the Holy Rosary before the Holy Mass after which the first of the four rosaries usually prayed at DWMs is recited before breaking up for our packed lunch which you are advised to bring with you. Biscuits and hot drinks (coffee and tea) are provided by the DWM.

There are also a great variety of religious articles, bibles, statues, rosaries medals etc. The best part of attending the DWM every Saturday is the variety of talks and all the beautiful hymns sung by the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate which experience is out of this world. Everything that is done and produced by

the DWM is very informative and soul searching. In-depth Catholic teachings and beliefs are made available by the very impressive talks given both on Saturdays and during the external pilgrimages which are also led by a priest Spiritual Director. It is always a pleasure attending a DWM as the leaders and permanent members are always welcoming, accommodating and always ready to help. The most amusing and touching moments I enjoy are especially during the annual pilgrimage travels which I will recommend to anyone who has not yet travelled with the DWM apostolate. You have to be there to experience it. You visit and go to places which other organisations do not normally go to and you are well looked after spiritually, physically, and well fed. You are always based in Catholic run accommodations and driven by experienced coach drivers from the time of your arrival to departure.



DWM Westminster Cathedral 2016



# The Advent Wreath

It is that time of the year. Advent wreaths are everywhere: in shops, in churches, on the front doors of many homes and in churches. It is also a long-standing Catholic tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, but how many people really understand the significance of the Advent wreath?

The Advent season is a time for us to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ into our world. It should also be a time of prayer and sacrifice for the second coming of Christ. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism to help us prepare for the coming of Christ.

The wreath is made of various evergreens and symbolises the continuity of life. It is a circle with no beginning or end signifying the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life we find in Christ, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection. As we contemplate our wreath, we reflect too on more than 40 million unborn aborted this year who will not see life.

The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The cedar signifies strength and healing. The

cones of pine which decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The prickly leaves of the holly recall the crown of thorns worn by Christ. The red berries call to mind the droplets of the Precious Blood shed by Christ as the leather whips with spiky pieces of bone at the ends tore away His flesh causing a loss of blood, thus weakening him for His crucifixion, and the blood vessels in His face bleeding profusely making it difficult for him to see.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. One tradition is that each week a candle represents one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Saviour. Another tradition states that the first candle reminds us of the message of the patriarchs, the second calls to mind the prophets, the third symbolizes the call of John the Baptist, and the fourth represents Mary's role in Salvation history.

During Advent we can meditate on our first parents, Adam and Eve, the gift of

sanctifying grace and the preternatural gifts (infused knowledge, immortality and integrity of passions), and how their Fall resulted in Original Sin, ignorance, concupiscence and mortality and sickness for all mankind. On the fourth Sunday of Advent we can contemplate Our Lady's role in Salvation history and how She is our true Mother. Her Fiat restored the participation of man in the divine life through the action of the Holy Spirit in Her at the Annunciation. Man is readmitted to the partaking in the divine life as Mary is to give birth to Jesus in her physical maternity, but in the physical-supernatural order, in generating Jesus She has generated her "*Firstborn*", in "*order that he might be the first-born among many brethren*" (Rm 8:29) and that we too, the many brethren, form one body in Christ, the Mystical Body. It is through our Baptism that we participate in the Mystical Body of Christ, to become sons in the Son. Mary has generated everyone when she generated Jesus as it is inconceivable to give birth to the head only without the body. She has been uniquely entrusted with our physical-supernatural maternity, the mystical maternity.

As the candles are lit each week it heightens the expectation and hope of Our Lord's first coming into the world and also looks forward to His second coming when he comes to judge the living and the dead. The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and



# Jesus is Truly God by Fr Linus Clovis



[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid2](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid2)



is lit on Christmas Eve. It represents the birth of Christ, the Saviour, the light of the world. The colour white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Saviour. According to St John Eudes Jesus desires us to perfect the mystery of his incarnation and birth by forming himself in us and being reborn in our souls through the blessed sacraments of baptism and the eucharist. He fulfils his hidden life in us, hidden with him in God.

Another tradition after the birth of Christ is to then replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will continue to be lit throughout the Christmas season. The four candles calls to mind the four corners of the earth and Christ the light in the centre recalls his words at His Ascension, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations”* (Matthew 28:19). We are called to be the light of the world and to let our light shine before others (Matthew 5: 14-16).

The white candle, a symbol of purity and sinlessness, also recalls Mary, the Immaculate Conception, and Co-redemptrix in the work of the salvation of souls. The birth of Christ is followed on 1 January by the Solemnity of the Mother of God. Let us contemplate on this day Our Lady as also being the candle in the

centre and the four candles represent the four corners of the earth. Let us recall Our Lady’s message at Fatima to Sr Lucia on 13 June 1917: *“Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.”* Sadly, this has not happened.


May our New Year resolution be to offer prayers and sacrifices for this to be understood and come to fulfilment. Just as the candle is in the centre may Our Lady be at the centre of the life of the Church, and that the Church may establish Devotion to Her Immaculate Heart to the four corners of the earth as requested at Fatima in 1917.

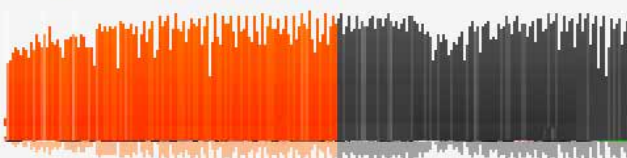
May we truly consecrate ourselves to Our Lady and make St Maximilian Kolbe’s prayer our own:

*Allow me to praise You, O most holy Virgin, with my personal commitment and sacrifice. Allow me to live, work, suffer, be consumed and die for You, just for You. Allow me to bring the whole world to You. Allow me to contribute to Your greatest possible exaltation. Allow me to give You such glory that no one else has ever given You up to now. Allow others to surpass me in zeal for Your exaltation, and me to surpass them, so that by means*

*of such noble rivalry Your glory may increase ever more profoundly, ever more rapidly, ever more intensely, as He who has exalted You so indescribably above all other beings Himself desires. - St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe*



 **Call to Holiness**



▶ 100,971 | ❤️ 1,517



**PODCAST**

**DOWNLOAD**

[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/pod2](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/pod2)



In this article a member of the Day With Mary team shares his experience of the Day With Mary pilgrimage to the Holy Grotto at Bethlehem

# Memories of the Day With Mary Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

**“But you, O Bethlehem-Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”  
Micah, ch. 5, v. 2**

## **Worshipping Jesus at the House of Bread**

One could not help thinking of the prophecy of Micah in the Old Testament whilst staying in Bethlehem. Jesus became incarnate in the most humble of towns, Nazareth. Nine months later He would be born in Bethlehem, the town that is ‘little’ as described in the Bible. Jesus came in obscurity and humility. The wise men, who were gentiles followed the star across hundreds of miles, that pointed to the west. To them it was so clearly the sign that the Messiah had come! When they arrived in the great city of Jerusalem, the city of kings, where David and Solomon, had ruled, they may have thought that this was surely where the Messiah was to be born. So naturally, they went to the Jewish king of their day, Herod, and inquired: “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?” They must have thought that if they, who were not Jews, could clearly see the star was a portent of the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, surely the whole of Israel would know this too. “For we have seen his star and have come to worship him.” “Where is he..” they said, expecting an answer.

We, the gentile pilgrims of the Day With Mary, had now come 2,000 years later to worship him! We worshipped him at our first Mass, which was in the Catholic church on ground level, not far from the exit of the sacred crypt where He was born. We also worshipped Him in the Manger, where Mary laid Him by Herself. It is hard to describe what it is like to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at sacred sites associated with Jesus! Bethlehem, Nazareth, Calvary and the Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre, – these were the highlights for me! In this article I will focus on Bethlehem, in honour of Christmas, which soon awaits us.

Pilgrims who attend the Day With Mary say there is nothing like a Day With Mary pilgrimage. I know exactly what they mean. There are excellent priests and guides on the Day With Mary who prepare the pilgrims with a spiritual platter of heavenly delights! They explain the Scripture passages about the sites we see and give us historical and even present-day context as well. They would go over one word and break it down spiritually. One such word is Bethlehem. Bethlehem in Hebrew is spelt בֵּית לֶחֶם or in modern lettering: Bet Lehem. It means House of Bread. How providential! God leaves nothing to chance. He, the Eternal High-Priest, feeds us Himself in the form of bread as He says so in chapter 6 of St John’s Gospel: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Arabic word for Bethlehem is Bayt Lahm. It is also most providential for it means “House of Meat.” Upon hearing these words, one is immediately drawn to St John’s Gospel, Chapter 6: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”

## **The Holy Grotto**

Prior to the Mass, we entered by the one and only outside door that takes us to the Holy grotto of Bethlehem, to the very spot where Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour was born! As we descended the stairs towards that most sacred of places, I felt a nervous joy. I knew something very special was about to happen, I would do what I had seen others doing in documentaries, I would place my hand on the very spot where Jesus was born and would kiss it. He Who is Our Lord and God, The Alpha and Omega, He Who is Omnipotent, Almighty, True God, True Man, Our Saviour, Our Redeemer, He Who died for love of all humanity! I would soon kiss, kneel and then place my hand and my Rosary on the spot where He came into the world. That spot where His Mother gave birth to Him in the most miraculous manner. Never had such an event occurred before, never would it happen again! A multitude of thoughts such as these came into my mind. Thankfully, the orderly queue and its slow pace helped me to hold on to many of these thoughts in an attitude of calm, something to which my nature is not always so accustomed as my friends will attest. The whole atmosphere simply imbued peace and calmness. I was at the birthplace of the Prince of Peace! “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’

And so my awaited turn came; I was next. I walked nervously to the very spot where Jesus was born! I concentrated hard. A documentary I once saw said that when something critical happens

in our lives, like a firefighter rescuing somebody in a building blazing with fire, time seems to stand still because our minds are concentrating so hard. How I wanted time to stand still as I placed my hand on the Bethlehem Star, the greatest of signposts on earth. The sign above this most hallowed spot stated “Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est” (Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary). Here I was where Jesus was born! And with all my training in the Day With Mary, how could my mind not turn to His Most Holy Mother! In the Day With Mary we are taught that Mary’s mystical beauty emanates from the fact that She is “Full of grace”, and we are taught that we should interiorise this beauty so that the exterior Day With Mary may reflect She who is Immaculate! The exterior Day With Mary is such events as the days of prayer on Saturday and the pilgrimages. For these to be carried out effectively we the members must live our interior lives through, with, in and for the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Kneeling at the very spot where Jesus was born how could one not think of the ecstatic joy Mary felt at seeing Her beloved Son. I thought about the Holy Catholic Church’s teaching that Mary preserved Her virginity before, during and after giving birth to the Christ Child. I thought of the words of two priests connected with the Day With Mary – who explained this miraculous birth of Jesus passing from His Mother into the world like a ray of light that passes through a clear glass. When hearing this description, sacred scripture and the teaching of Holy Mother the Church makes so much sense. Of course, Mother Mary did not suffer the pangs of childbirth when giving birth to Jesus, Her Son. She is the Immaculate Conception! This explains how She could wrap Him Herself in swaddling cloths, and lay Him in a manger. She had the strength to do so and She was alone at the moment of giving birth. St Joseph, as Blessed Catherine Anne Emerich, explains,

was in another part of the cave that was partitioned from where Mother Mary gave birth to Jesus.

### The Two Hearts

In the Day With Mary, we learn about great Catholic saints. As one priest has told us, all saints were Marian. They had a great love for Mary, for no one could love Jesus, without loving Mary. As one great Marian saint, St Jacinta of Fatima, said, Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary venerated alongside His Most Sacred Heart. Jesus’ Sacred Heart comes from His Mother’s Immaculate Heart. One can see that so clearly at Nazareth and Bethlehem. He took all His Flesh and Blood from His Mother and that includes His Sacred Heart. One such saint that came to mind in that grotto at Bethlehem was St Therese, The Little Flower, who worshipped the Child Jesus. I remembered reading years ago words attributed to her along the lines of: “How can we fear a God Who comes to us in the form of a helpless Babe?” How true these words are. When Proverbs says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, it does not contradict St Therese. Proverbs means that we must fear offending God by sin. As St John of the Cross said: “In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone.” If we really love God, we will do our utmost to avoid sin. This is why it was so wonderful to see the holy sacrament of confession available on pilgrimage. The priests at the Day With Mary would make themselves available to hear confession in the chapel of the hotels that we stayed in and anywhere else where they could administer the sacrament.

### Bethlehem and Calvary

Bethlehem, with Nazareth, is part of the beginning of Christ’s life on earth. For now at the Day With Mary pilgrimage in Bethlehem there is peace and calm and one feels that peace and calm at the Grotto. We the pilgrims of the Day With Mary share the peace and joy of Mary and we cannot forget St Joseph and the Archangel Gabriel and all the holy

angels, as they worship the Christ Child. We use the Day With Mary hymn books on our pilgrimages and one popular hymn that we sing is Sleep, Holy Babe. The third verse is as follows:

Sleep, holy babe, while I with Mary gaze  
In joy upon that face awhile,  
Upon the loving infant smile,  
Which there divinely plays.

At Bethlehem it seems it is always Christmas and the year that I went on the Day With Mary pilgrimage, the Masses and readings at Bethlehem were of the Nativity, even though we were in the season of Easter. However, even at Bethlehem the Cross is never far from Jesus. Venerable Fulton Sheen says our mission when we are born is to live. Jesus mission was unique; He was born to die! Calvary, where Jesus died, is only six miles away from Bethlehem. Calvary inspires another kind of holy awe, but a very different kind to that of Bethlehem. In our hymn book the solemn Christmas carols also remind us that this Awesome Babe came for a very important mission. These are the last two verses of the aforementioned hymn:

Sleep, holy, babe, ah, take thy brief repose;  
too quickly will thy slumbers break,  
and thus to lengthen’d pains awake,  
that death alone shall close.  
O lady blest, sweet Virgin, hear my cry;  
Forgive the wrong that I have done  
To thee, in causing thy dear Son  
Upon the cross to die.

Sleep  
Holy  
Babe



[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid3](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid3)

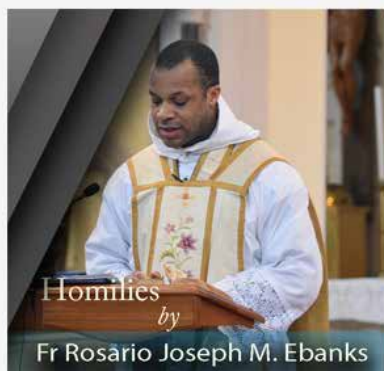
Join us at our DWM  
Fatima Pilgrimage

Leave 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Return 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021



[www adaywithmary.org/pilgrimages](http://www adaywithmary.org/pilgrimages)

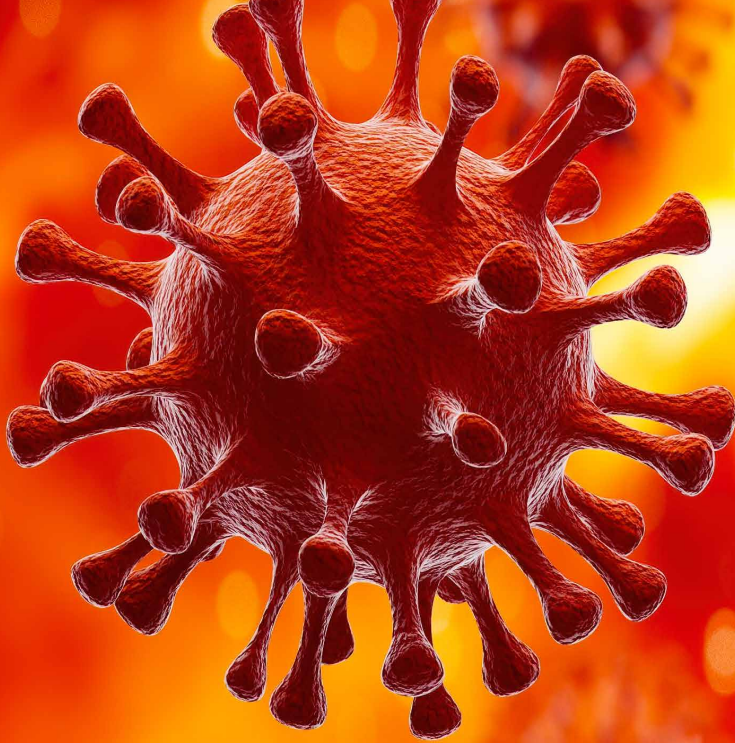


My Blessed Mother’s  
Role in My Life



▶ 100,971 | ♥ 1,517





# The Fatima Message in the Pandemic of 2020

*The whole world has been affected by the corona virus pandemic. In this article we examine how the message of Fatima helps us to deal with the 'new normal' and in the end how the Regina Corona Virtus (The Queen Crowned with Virtue) will defeat Covid-19.*

## **The link between the corona virus of 1918 and that of 2020**

Some people would say that we are living in unprecedented times with Covid-19. However, if we look at the

time of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, we see that another corona virus was spreading around the world – the Spanish flu! It is estimated that this global pandemic claimed the lives of 50 million people at a time when the global population was approximately 1.6 billion people. At the time of writing, Covid-19 is estimated to have killed 1.25 million with a global population of 7.8 billion. This gives us an idea of the scale of the pandemic in 1918, which was first reported in the US on 4th March 1918, only five months after the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, which occurred on 13th October 1917.

There is a very strong link with the corona virus of 1918 and the message of Fatima. In the apparition of 13th June 1917, one of the three seers, Lucia dos Santos, asked Our Lady to take the three children to heaven. The Blessed Virgin Mary, said “Yes. I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. But you are to stay some time longer.” In the Litany of Loreto Our Lady is called Queen of Prophets and the words just quoted all came true. Lucia died in our century, 13th February 2005, to be exact. However, Francisco and Jacinta died of the Spanish flu not long after the apparitions at Fatima, on 4th April 1919 and 20th February 1920 respectively. While there is no mention

in Lucia’s memoirs that she contracted the virus, she and her family were deeply affected by it. She recounts that her father was “a healthy man, and robust...he had never known what it was to have a headache. But, in less than twenty-four hours an attack of double pneumonia carried him off to eternity.” He died on 31st July, 1919, in between the deaths of Francisco (4th April 1919) and Jacinta (20th February 1920). Sister Lucia had a very strong relationship with her beloved father. She states that her sorrow was so great that she almost died of grief at his loss. The following words, written in her memoirs, are particularly moving: “He was the only one who never failed to show himself to be my friend, and the only one who defended me when disputes arose at home on account of me.” The message of Fatima teaches us to offer sacrifices and offer up penances for poor sinners. Lucia lived this message to the full and writes about the immense suffering she went through at the loss of her father, who had been such a help, when others doubted her.

Holy Mother the Church canonized Ss Jacinta and Francisco for their heroic acts of virtue. In effect, they taught us how to live and they taught us how to die! In the apparition of 13th May 1917 Our Lady asked the three children: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?” Lucia, on behalf of all three, said: “Yes, we are willing.” Our Lady replied: “Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort”.

All three children were greatly affected by these words of Our Lady and began to undertake quite remarkable penances. We will examine how their lives were examples of virtue for us and try to see what we can learn from this in these most challenging times.

### **A time for meditation**

In St Luke's Gospel we are told twice that Mary "pondered these things in her heart." The first time was at the birth of Our Lord and the second time was after She and St Joseph found him in the temple when they had lost Him for three days. Who could ever imagine the ecstatic contemplation of Our Blessed Mother when She was with Him at Bethlehem, Nazareth and Egypt. In St Louis de Montfort's classic *The Secret of the Rosary*, he says that even demons are forced to admit that "...one single sigh that she offers to the Blessed Trinity is worth far more than all the prayers, desires, and aspirations of all the saints". Our Blessed Lady said very little in the Gospels, yet her innumerable actions had a profound effect on the whole of humanity throughout all time and into all eternity. Faithful and loving children follow the example of their parents. During and after the apparitions, Francisco was a great contemplative. He wanted to console Our Lord whom Francisco saw was so offended by sin. Sister Lucia wrote of him that he was a boy of few words. She said he would ingeniously slip away to kneel and pray or, as he said: "Think of Our Lord, Who is sad on account of so many sins."

As in past times, when there were calamities or disasters, today we often hear people complaining about God in the current pandemic. The sceptics say, "If God is so good why does he allow this pandemic to happen?" The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that God

allows evil to occur in order to bring about a greater good. In answer to the previous question, a more pertinent question should be: "What is my response to this pandemic?" Now that the corona virus has so changed the world and our way of living in 2020, we should turn this time into our opportunity to unite our sufferings to those of Jesus on the Cross and His Mother at the foot of the Cross. Earlier we touched upon the suffering Sister Lucia of Fatima went through when her father died of an illness very likely brought on by the Spanish flu. After she had been told the news she exclaimed: "My God! My God! I never thought You had so much suffering in store for me! But I suffer for love of You, in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Holy Father and for the conversion of sinners." In a very reflective part of the Day With Mary, during the Eucharistic procession, we pray the sacrifice prayer that Our Lady of Fatima taught the children of Fatima, when on 13th June, 1917, Our Lady said to the children "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say this prayer many times, especially whenever you make some sacrifice: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary." Notice that Sister Lucia did not say "I do not want this suffering! I do not want to make this sacrifice! Why is God allowing it?" Rather, she answered the call of our Heavenly Mother Mary: "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners..."

### **Fatima – the only apparition of Our Lady where we have been asked to meditate**

Many of us now have more time on our hands than before. At the time of writing we are in a second lockdown. We cannot go to Mass, many of us cannot go to

work. We cannot go to other peoples' homes. So, one thing we have more of is time! How wisely are we using this time? Do you know Dear Reader that, of all the authorized apparitions of Our Lady throughout the world, Fatima is unique in that Our Lady asked us to engage in mental prayer? When asking us to do the Five First Saturdays devotion, one of the conditions is that we meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes. In no other authorized apparition did Our Lady ask us to do the same. One could, of course, argue that at Knock, Our Lady was exhorting us to mental prayer because She said nothing and the vision was so profound, and St John was holding the Bible (it is believed that it was open on the Book of the Apocalypse, which was written by him). However, at Fatima She actually exhorted us to meditate, in her own words. Really, every Catholic should be meditating on the Catholic faith daily, if possible. St Alphonsus Liguori, the great moral theologian, wrote: "Without mental prayer the soul is without light." In the Day With Mary, we try to have a period of approximately 15 minutes of silent, mental prayer. It is really striking to see a whole church full of pilgrims focused upon Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, silent and still, transfixed upon Our Lord and Our God. Here we see the essence of the Day With Mary, which tries to live the Fatima message to the full. Mary brings us to Jesus. As Pope St John-Paul II said: "Devotion to Mary is Christo-centric." (Christ-centered). His holiness explained that Mary does not lead us away from Jesus, She leads us to Jesus. Devotion to Her is Christ-centered because She does not keep us for Herself, She brings us to Her Son, Who has no greater Adorer than His own Mother. She brings us to adore Her Son With Her. A Day With Mary is ultimately A Day With Jesus!

**Mental prayer could encompass four key parts known as ACTS. A is for adoration. C is for contrition. T is for thanksgiving and S is for supplication.**

### ***What is mental prayer?***

One might ask what mental prayer is. Really, it is turning one's mind and one's heart to God, in order to adore Him, who is so worthy of our love. Christian mental prayer should not invoke eastern forms of meditation as St Pope John Paul II reminds us. We are not aiming for our souls to leave our bodies in some state of emptiness. Rather we are aiming for an intimate union with God and as Our Lady of

Fatima teaches us, and the example of the children of Fatima show, this union with God is accomplished with, through in and for the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our Lady of Fatima said the following to the children: "He (Jesus) wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. To those who accept this, I promise them the salvation of their souls and they will be loved by God like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne."



**A number of times in the Day With Mary we meditate on the Stations of the Cross by St John Henry Newman. In the fourth station where Jesus and Mary meet each other, St Newman says: “Oh, what a meeting of Son and Mother! ... Jesus and Mary – do they forget that Passion-tide through all eternity?” Just one event in the life of Jesus and Mary could be pondered throughout all eternity!**

“Listen well to this, my children. When I first came to Ars, there was a man who never passed the church without going in. In the morning on his way to work, and in the evening on his way home, he left his spade and pick-axe in the porch, and he spent a long time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Oh! how I loved to see that! I asked him once what he said to Our Lord during the long visits he made Him. Do you know what he told me? ‘Eh, Monsieur le Curé I say nothing to Him, I look at Him and He looks at me!’ How beautiful, my children, how beautiful!”

“I look at Him and He looks at me!” How this reminds us of the words of St Louis de Montfort quoted earlier about the Blessed Virgin Mary: “...one single sigh that she offers to the Blessed Trinity is worth far more than all the prayers, desires, and aspirations of all the saints”. If we find it difficult to meditate, a really good starting point is to think of Mary contemplating Jesus. St Louis de Montfort says that Jesus “glorified His independence and His majesty in depending upon this loveable Virgin in his conception, his birth, his presentation in the temple, and in the thirty years of his hidden life.” This gives us an eternity of mysteries to meditate upon! Key events in the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of Mary! And what wealth of thoughts we could have about Jesus and Mary for the 30 years of the quiet life they had together. Imagine Mother Mary reading the Scriptures to Her boy Son Jesus! Imagine the peace, the calm, the pinnacle of love between them! Heaven on earth! Then there are the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary to focus on: the key events in the life of Jesus and Mary on earth. We can meditate upon any one of these mysteries and try to see them through the eyes, in other words, The Immaculate Heart, of His Blessed Mother.

## A is for Adoration

In adoration we tell God we love Him with all our being, as we are exhorted to do this in Deuteronomy. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” Ejaculatory prayers are helpful in mental prayer and Our Lady and the Angel of Fatima taught us some most profound prayers, that we can recite, such as the following:

- O Most Holy Trinity, I Adore You! My God, my God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament.
- O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.
- My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you.

These prayers above are sung and recited at the Day With Mary in Eucharistic processions, where we express Our love for God not only with our hearts and our minds, but also with our voices and even in our movements. As we process in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, our walking together, following in the steps of Jesus, Our Eternal High priest, Who is leading the way, is symbolic of our following Him to the promised

land of heaven, where the Spirit and His Eternal Bride, Mary, say “Come!” It is truly wonderful to see the pilgrims, our brothers and sisters in the Day With Mary, showing such reverence for Our Lord in the Eucharistic procession, as they pour their hearts and souls to God in reverential hymns. We are reminded of the words of St Augustine of Hippo: “He who sings prays twice.”

Many people will read in order to help them in their mental prayer. The most obvious prayer tool is the Bible. However, one can use some other good Catholic book, such as by or about the saints (such as Fatima in Lucia’s own Words and Calls of Fatima) or holy priests or wonderful papal encyclicals, such as Ineffabilis Deus. These are read to help us think about God and direct our thoughts to Him. We might find a passage that really strikes us and we can put the book down and think about that passage and ‘speak’ to God and His Blessed Mother about it. To the saints like Padre Pio, prayer was a conversation with God and Our Lady. The highest form of mental prayer is contemplation where no book is required. Here one simply contemplates God and has reached the highest form of meditation. A good explanation of what it entails is recounted by the Cure of Ars, St John Vianney:



# C is for Contrition

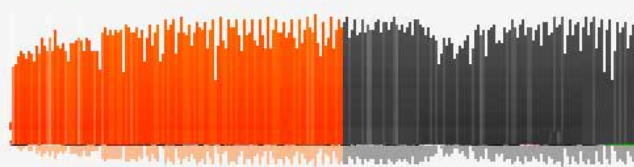
Here we think about the sins we have committed and make an Act of contrition and tell God we are heartily sorry for our sins and ask him to forgive us. We do well to meditate on the passion and death of Our Lord. A number of saints have told us that the best possible subject to meditate upon is the Passion of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and who better than the example of Our Lady. In the Secret of the Rosary, St Louis de Montfort states: “After Our Lord’s Ascension, Our Blessed Lady spent the rest of her life visiting the places that had been hallowed by his presence and by his sufferings. There, she meditated on his boundless love and on his terrible passion.” He also writes the following about St Mary Magdalene: “Few saints

have reached the same heights of prayer as Saint Mary Magdalene, who was lifted up to heaven by angels each day, and who had the privilege of learning at the feet of Jesus and his holy Mother. Yet one day, when she asked God to show her a sure way of advancing in his love and arriving at the heights of perfection, he sent the archangel St. Michael to tell her, on his behalf, that there was no other way for her to reach perfection than to meditate on our Lord’s passion. So he placed a cross in the front of her cave and told her to pray before it, contemplating the sorrowful mysteries which she had seen take place with her own eyes.” *Contrition plays an integral part in the Day With Mary. We try to have confession available throughout the day.*

*A number of penitents over the years have told us amazing stories about how they found the grace and the strength to go to confession at a Day With Mary, despite having avoided this sacrament for even many years. One penitent told one of our members that he had been carrying a sin with him for decades and it was at a Day With Mary where he finally managed to confess it. In the Day With Mary we try to instil a love for sinners. One very great teacher on how to love sinners was Jacinta who went through incredible sacrifices for them. She would give her lunch to poor children and would eat acorns or olives still growing on trees because they were more bitter than the ones on the ground. After her brother Francisco died Jacinta asked Our Lady if she could stay and suffer on earth considerably longer so that she could save more poor sinners by her sacrifices! Sister Lucia wrote of her: “Jacinta’s thirst for making sacrifices seemed insatiable.”*



The Place of Our Lord’s Birth



▶ 100,971 | ♥ 1,517





# T is for Thanksgiving

Possibly one of the saddest events in the Gospel is when Jesus cured ten lepers and only one returned to thank Him. This man came back to Jesus and threw himself at the feet of Our Dear Lord, praising God. How very sad were the words of Jesus that followed! “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.” We must thank God every day for what He has done for us. The gift of Himself, His Holy Mother, The Catholic Church, Grace, Baptism and all the wonderful sacraments, our husbands, wives, children, life and the list goes on ad infinitum. How can we ever thank God enough!

In our mental prayer we would do well to have spiritual communion. During lockdown as one follows the Mass online one is struck at how many priests recite the Spiritual Communion prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori that we recite at the Day With Mary:

*“My Jesus, I believe that Thou art really present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee above all things, and I desire to possess Thee within my soul. Since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. - (We should then pause at this point to adore God in our mind and to make an intention for our spiritual communion, asking Him for graces etc.) - I embrace Thee as being already there and unite myself wholly to Thee. Never, never permit me to be separated from Thee. Amen.”*

As we turn our hearts and minds to God in mental prayer we can recite the

prayer the Angel of Fatima taught us, who revealed himself as the Angel of Portugal, who is known to be St Michael the Archangel; he is also the Defender of Israel:

“Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.”

There is an old saying in English: “Familiarity breeds contempt”. As we are unable to receive Our Lord in sacramental communion, it is hoped that our spiritual communion will help to foster a greater love for the Blessed Sacrament. Could it be that when we were able to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we grew over-familiar with Our Lord? An elderly priest was once asked to cover for a parish priest during the weekend. When the parish priest returned to his parish, the elderly priest, none too pleased, commended him, saying: “Congratulations! You have a church of saints. Hardly anybody came to confession, but almost everybody received Holy Communion!” Holy Mother the Church teaches us that we may only receive Our Lord in Holy Communion in a state of grace. If we are in mortal sin we must go to sacramental confession before we may receive Our Lord in Holy Communion and we must make a firm resolution not to sin again.” That is why in the Day With Mary confession is so integral to the day

of prayer. In September or October of 1916, the Angel of Portugal, St Michael, gave Holy Communion to the three children. His words were striking! “Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God.” How very sad that God is so outraged and offended by sacrilegious Communions; how many there must be! During the Eucharistic procession at the Day With Mary we pray the following prayer to make an act of reparation for these sacrilegious Communions. We recite this prayer three times because the Angel of Portugal repeated the prayer three times with the children, in reparation to the Most Holy Trinity: *“Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.”*

It should be noted that the Code of Canon Law no. 988, §2 states:

*“It is recommended to the Christian faithful that they also confess venial sins.” [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) We are also reminded at the beginning of the Day With Mary that if we make a sacramental confession within eight days, and fulfil some good work, such as half an hour’s adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, or pray the Rosary in the company of at least one other person, or before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we may obtain a plenary indulgence to help release a soul from purgatory. For the indulgence to be plenary, we are also required not to have attachment to sin. If any of these conditions are not fulfilled the indulgence will be a partial one.*





## S is for Supplication

In supplication we ask God for the needs of the world and our own needs. At the Day With Mary when we announce the intentions of the day, we address Our Lady in the following words: “We offer the Holy Rosary and the whole day to you, dear Mother, for our stated intentions, but above all for your own intentions, for the glory of your only son, Jesus, and the most Holy Trinity.” We go on to say that we also offer to Our Heavenly Mother our prayers, confession and communion for Her to dispose of as She will, and in reparation for the offences and blasphemies against Her Immaculate Heart.

When we offer the whole day for Our Lady’s intentions we cannot go wrong. She is our Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate before God. She knows all our needs. At Fatima She mentioned some very important intentions: The Conversion of poor sinners, peace and reparation for the sins committed against Her Immaculate Heart. Our Blessed Mother sees and knows the needs of poor mankind far better than we could ever know them. On 13th July 1917 Our Lady of Fatima said: “I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, to continue to pray the Rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only She can help you.” Of course, in mental prayer we can ‘talk’ to Jesus and Mary about our personal needs and those of our loved

ones. In supplication, we can ask for our own private intentions as well, but we ask in humility that they be secondary to the intentions of Our Lady.

In his classic, *The Secret of the Rosary*, St Louis de Montfort breaks down the prayers of the Holy Rosary. When describing the Our Father, he says the following, regarding the sentence: Give us this day our daily bread - “Our Lord taught us to ask God for everything that we need whether in the spiritual or temporal order.” (Temporal means our needs in time, in this world.) He goes on to say that all temporal goods come from God’s Divine Providence. When we ask for our daily bread, we are of course asking for our spiritual food – the Blessed Sacrament. While we are, at present, unable to partake of this heavenly food, in lockdown, we can keep asking Him to give us a time in the future when we may receive Him. As Jesus reminds us, those who keep knocking at the door of His Sacred Heart through prayer will have that door opened to them! When asking for daily bread, we also ask for our temporal food, this day, which means, according to St Louis de Montfort, that we are only concerned for the present, leaving the morrow in the hands of Providence.” In the Day With Mary we do all this, with, through in and for Our Lady. All our prayers, actions and thoughts are sealed in Her Immaculate Heart!

### In the End My Immaculate Heart will Triumph

Dear Reader, are you suffering in these most difficult times? Has the corona virus affected you, as it has so many others? Do not despair, have courage for you are not alone. I refer you back to the words of Our Lady of Fatima, mentioned in the first section of this article, when She appeared to the children for the first time on 13th May 1917: “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?” Lucia, speaking on behalf of all three, said: “Yes, we are willing.”

We too must be willing to accept the sufferings that God wills to send us. After all, if we do not, who will? In August 1917, Our Lady said: “Pray much and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for them.” How these words should strike at the very core of our being! Many souls go to hell because there is no one to make sacrifices for poor sinners! Will you, in these times of suffering, offer up your whole day, all your actions, all the sufferings that come your way, all your daily actions to the Immaculate Mother of God? If you do, She will do the rest. We have her assurance. The corona virus is as nothing to Her before Her power, for as Her Son is the Christ The King of the Universe, She is the Queen of the Universe. She has dominion over all creation. We see this in chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation, where She is described as the woman who has the moon under feet. The moon is a symbol of all created things.

In his encyclical on the Queenship of Mary, *Ad Caeli Reginam*, Pope Pius XII said that The Immaculate Queen of heaven and earth has been given “the royal right to dispose of the treasures of the Divine Redeemer’s Kingdom”. So yes, She is far greater than anything the corona virus or the world, the flesh and the devil can throw at us, for She is the Corona Regina Virtus: The Queen Crowned in Virtue.

Will you respond to Her call, to bring about the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart? Use this special time wisely and prudently – really it is a time of grace - where we can grow to love Our Immaculate Mother more deeply in order to respond to Her call at Fatima, so that in the end the prophecy of the Queen of Prophets, The Queen Crowned in Virtue, will come true: “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!”



# Book Review

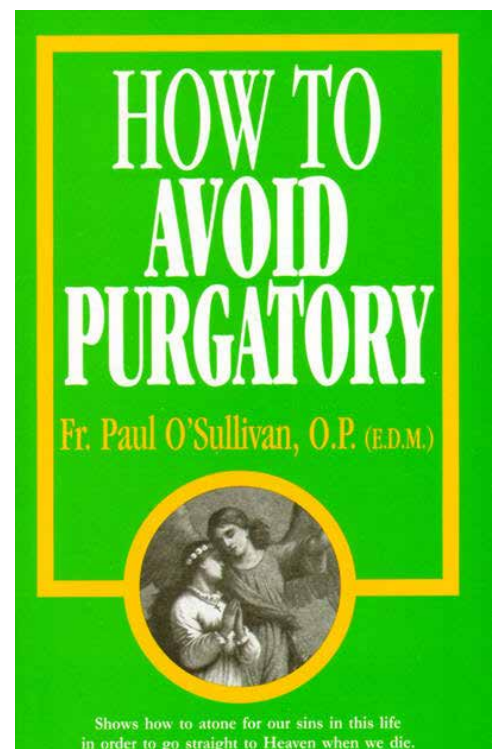
How to Avoid Purgatory by Father Paul O’Sullivan OP  
*-Tan Books and Publishers INC - 41 pages*

Before I start this review, let me put this scenario before you. Somebody we love and care for is forced to move to a far-off country; a place where food and clothes are not readily available and their only means of survival depends on you sending regular supplies. Without hesitation, our response would be to send all the food and clothes necessary to keep them warm and well fed. Supposing we then found out that unless we take certain measures, we too would be sent to this desolate land with no guarantee of any support. Again, we would do all in our power to prevent this from happening. I am sure you can see where I am leading.

Now to this beautiful little book on avoiding Purgatory. At the moment of death, we will enter one of three places: Heaven, Hell or Purgatory. Here we find in its purest form, and in simple language that speaks to the soul, the Catholic teaching on what we must do to enter Heaven immediately, yes, to become a saint. It is also a desperately needed reminder that those in Purgatory, family,

and friends, in particular, but in fact every soul in this place of purification, is dependent on our prayers and actions so they can eventually enter Heaven. This is not a theological treatise, and there is no mention of the private revelations to the saints about what Purgatory is like. Our most loving God does not want us in Purgatory; he made us for Heaven, but if we refuse to correct our bad habits and avoid even venial sins, then this will be our lot and we have nobody to blame but ourselves. Each of us is called individually and Father O’Sullivan gives many examples of how the everyday opportunities which come our way are the steppingstones to Heaven. We may not all be called to heroic virtue like the canonized saints, but we see in this book all the ways that almighty God, through divine providence and His most Holy Catholic Church, calls us home. Father teaches without compromise, how while still alive we have every means at our disposal to prepare our immortal soul for eternal life in Heaven, but in Purgatory

our time for gaining grace is over. The most sobering thought, if we only aim for Purgatory we may just end up in Hell.



[www.adaywithmary.org/mag1/audio](http://www.adaywithmary.org/mag1/audio)  
[www.adaywithmary.org/mag1/ebook](http://www.adaywithmary.org/mag1/ebook)



## When Things Go Wrong...

As with any planned event there are always a few mishaps and with the 'Day With Mary' now approaching its 35th year we have certainly had a few! Some unfortunate, some laughable.

### Backfire!

I will begin with an enlightening episode which took place several years ago when one of the altar servers unknowingly managed to set himself on fire! Not hidden in the sacristy, but in full view of the congregation on the main altar! You may remember the priest celebrating at the time, a much loved Redemptorist who during the 'nineties' preached at many Days With Mary. The server had just processed on to the altar for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and placed the acolyte candle on the floor just behind where he knelt. Unbeknown to him, the flame from the candle soon caught his white cotta and was quickly spreading up his back. I was kneeling on a side altar and the first I knew something was wrong was when a lady came rushing past me in a panic, ran up onto the altar and started dousing the flames with her bare hands! The server, who had been totally unaware of what was happening, put his hands behind his back also to douse the flames, but feeling the burning sensation quickly withdrew. The Celebrant who saw what transpired, thought it miraculous that the server had not been burned. Apparently, our choir in the organ loft at the back of the church saw everything and watched helplessly as the flames had got bigger and bigger!

We learnt afterwards that on that very morning our server had been asked to pray for a poor person who was killed in a fire; he was reminded again that

evening after recounting the unfortunate incident.

You might think it was a lesson well learned except it happened again! This time Mass was being celebrated by another great priest from some years ago. The server, deep in prayer and completely unaware that the acolyte candle was slowly burning through his cotta and smoke was rising. The Celebrant could see what was happening and was making signals to our server, but with eyes closed he was totally oblivious. Then once again, a quick-thinking observer took the initiative and our singed server lived to fight another day! No flames this time, just a burning hole through to his shirt.

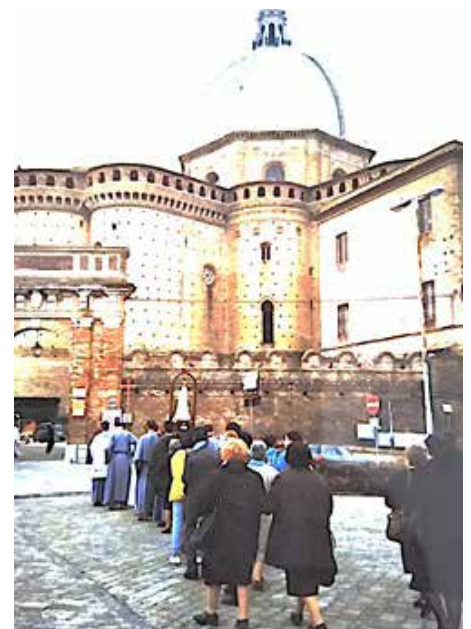
It may not come as much surprise, but following these flammable calamities and having recently started a new job, our altar server, now with a wealth of personal experience, was happy to take on the new roll of building 'Fire Officer'!

### Where is Our Lady?!

The 'Day With Mary' has for many years been organizing group pilgrimages to Italy, including a visit to the world-famous shrine of Our Lady, 'The Holy House of Loreto'. On our first visit in the late 'nineties', we also had the great privilege of arranging 'A Day With Mary' in the beautiful basilica as we do in England (The Holy House is situated inside the basilica). This was for the

English-speaking pilgrims and we had now been joined by a large 'Padre Pio' group also on pilgrimage from the UK. A statue of 'Our Lady of Loreto' with flower display, was to be carried during the opening outside procession. As the shrine is situated on top of a mountain,

it was decided we would begin the procession lower down in the valley and process up to the basilica. The meticulous preparations were now complete, so all the pilgrims were led down the mountain to the starting point. Three of us had been entrusted with taking Our Lady of Loreto down the mountain to the place where the procession was due to begin; the pilgrims were waiting patiently with the priest. It was then we suddenly realised that neither statue nor carrier was present! After much scratching of heads in disbelief, we came to one conclusion.....unbelievable but true! We had somehow forgotten to bring Our Lady's statue with carrier from its resting place in the basilica! No time to be embarrassed! We Just had to go and get it. Two of us ran back up to the basilica, and though virtually exhausted, we found the statue and then made our way back as fast as we could. Safe to say, we got down the valley in one piece and our procession began as planned. The 'Day' went beautifully and apart from some very red organizers faces, nobody was too aware of the minor hitch that began the day.





# Mary, My Mother

## The Early Years

I suppose it is like a child who is raised up by his mother only to discover that when he is grown up that she is not his real mother. Then his search begins to know his real mother.

Mary, my Mother. I was born in 1952 but for thirty-three years of my life I never spoke or thought about these words. They meant nothing to me. Yes, I knew Mary as the Mother of Jesus but not as my Mother.

For thirty-three years of my life I also knew absolutely nothing about the Catholic Church. I was born in Northern Ireland of a Protestant family. I was brought up as a Baptist in a town predominantly Protestant. Schools were segregated and I never mixed with Catholics. It was only in my early teens that I started to have Catholic friends. I remember when I visited them I had an underlying feeling that they were different because they were Catholic and there was a sense of suspicion and fear, created subconsciously, I felt, by this segregation.

In my early years I attended Sunday School each week, enjoyed learning the Catechism and listening enthusiastically to the Bible stories, again and again. I loved to take part in stage productions of Bible stories and I still remember with fondness the year I got to play the part of Moses. With my family I enjoyed the church outings at weekends. My grandmother was the caretaker for the church and every Sunday afternoon with my brothers I would help her

clean the church and once a month fill the communion cups with wine for the evening communion service. I also recall occasions I filled the pool with water when a baptism was due to take place in the evening service.

So, for the early part of my life I was very much involved with church activities and regularly went to church with my parents and brothers. I really enjoyed it but I must honestly say that my faith was not very deep in a spiritual sense. So, it was no real surprise that my faith started to disappear when I started university life in 1971. I studied in Belfast and I no longer went to church apart from the odd weekend when I went home and attended the local church with my parents. The reason why I stopped was partly out of shyness at the thought of having to attend a new Baptist Church in Belfast and get to know strangers, and partly because I enjoyed spending my Sundays pursuing other activities with friends at university.

During my university life I found myself more aware of the divide that existed in Northern Ireland between Protestantism and Catholicism. Bomb scares and running away from a building before a bomb exploded was part of everyday life in Belfast during those years. At university I mixed more with Catholics, but no-one really wanted to talk about religion and I, for my part, continued to remain in total ignorance of what being a Catholic meant. The Protestant culture, which I had grown up in, continued to portray Catholics as different and not to be trusted. Yet among friends

at university and in the attitude of my parents there was none of this suspicion and hatred. I became increasingly aware that it was minority groups creating this religious divide for political and criminal gain rather than over religious differences. It did have this damaging effect, however, of preventing people from sharing their faith.

After graduating from university, I came to London in 1978 and I started work in a hospital. I spent thirteen years working in this hospital and it was during my time there that God's grace started to work in me through the Mediatrix of all graces, Mary.

The time I spent working at this hospital brought me much happiness over the years there. However, for six years religion continued to play no part in my life and very seldom, if ever, I thought about God. My life was full and there was always plenty to do and I had lots of friends to enjoy time with. Gradually, however, despite all the good times I had, I began to feel a certain emptiness and restlessness in my life and now and again my thoughts would turn to God. I felt the desire in me to pray but it did not come easily to me.

## Discovery of the Rosary

I think this turning to God was due in part to the work I was now doing at the hospital following a promotion. I was involved in seeing families of loved ones who had died in hospital, accompanying them to see their loved ones in the Chapel of Rest, and helping them with funeral arrangements. Dealing with death each day started me pondering on the shortness of life and its meaning and meeting sick patients each day on the wards brought me face to face with suffering. I became involved in hospital bereavement counselling and I was introduced to a



Macmillan Nurse newly appointed by the Health Authority to set up a Terminal Care service in the hospital. In my spare time I helped her with administrative support as she was totally on her own trying to set up this service.

Our friendship grew and she, being a devout Catholic, began to share her faith with me. She invited me to a church prayer group where I heard the rosary for the first time. I am ashamed to say that my reaction on that occasion to hearing the recitation of the rosary was one of horror and fear. The sound of so many voices praying the rosary was like a machine gun discharging so many bullets in quick fashion and it did not sound prayerful to me!

However, when she gave me a leaflet entitled "How to pray the rosary", together with a set of rosary beads, and helped me to pray it, my life changed forever. I fell in love with the rosary. It was the answer to my longing to pray to God and it was my first encounter with the devotion given to Mary in the Catholic Church as well as my first encounter with Catholicism. With

my Baptist upbringing I had a good knowledge of Scripture and I experienced a deep joy in meditating on the mysteries of the rosary. God had answered my longing to pray by sending His Mother to teach me.

The nurse had a small cenacle of friends meeting each month to pray the fifteen decades of the rosary. I joined them and discovered a great spiritual peace whenever we prayed together. I was also impressed by their great love for Mary. Each one had in their home an altar and flowers for Our Lady. All of them belonged to the Legion of Mary and in their lives bore witness to their love for God, the Catholic Church, for Mary and for each other. Their faith made a deep impression on me and was one of the reasons for my turning eventually to the Catholic Church.

#### **Divine Office and Return to Church**

My nurse friend also introduced me to the Divine Office. This was another tremendous gift from God: to be able to join each day in prayer with the Church throughout the world. My friend and I often prayed the Divine Office together. Through the Divine Office I came to

learn of the existence of the writings of the Fathers of the Church and to see how the Catholic Church honours all the saints down through the centuries. None of this existed in the Baptist Church and there was never any mention of Mary. The whole tradition of the Church from its early beginnings, all the richness and wisdom of the Church Fathers and Saints, was completely overlooked in the Baptist church.

As I had now started to pray each day, I felt I must start attending church again. There was a Baptist Church next to the hospital where I worked. Again, my shyness came to the fore and I found it difficult to go to the church. Again, God's grace came to my rescue. The MacMillan nurse asked me one evening to accompany her to a house visit where one of her patients was dying. We arrived to find that the patient had already died. We stayed for a while with the patient's wife, a little elderly lady. She turned out to be a devout Baptist who attended the church next to the hospital. That night I was so impressed by the strength and conviction of her faith that I resolved there and then

## **Mother of The Mystical Body by Fr Linus Clovis**



[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid4](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid4)





to go the following Sunday to the Baptist Church which she attended. It was my first visit to a church for many years and I then continued to go each Sunday.

At the same time, I continued my voluntary administrative work for the MacMillan Sister and I found myself going to Mass often during the week with her and praying the evening prayer of the Church and the rosary. I would also go with her in the evenings to see patients and their families at home and in the hospital. I found myself praying the rosary with families and their loved ones who were dying and trying to offer them support. For me, the nurse epitomised the words of St. James: “a person obtains holiness by his deeds and not by faith alone.” She had a tremendous love for Our Lady and spent what little free time she had with the Blessed Sacrament. She was full of joy and love for Christ, for His Word, for the teachings of the Catholic Church and bore witness to that in her work and in her life outside of work. She helped people struggling in their faith, she made enemies, but still she persevered through her many trials always seeking the will of God rather than her own. And most important of all she did everything through Our Lady. Her faith and her deeds made a deep impression on me and provoked a response in me to start to live my life for Christ and to seek to know Our Lady more.

I was also encouraged to go along to Scripture Study at a Catholic Church. For the first time in my life I was experiencing at the same moment two different ways of interpreting the faith handed down to us by Jesus when he

founded his Church. During the next 18 months I found myself reflecting on the teaching of the Catholic Church comparing it with views held by other Christian Churches. In the early stages I found myself being bombarded with all types of visions and apparitions by well-meaning Catholics. This proved too much for me and hindered my progress towards becoming a Catholic. Once people realised this and left me in peace, I was able to take my time, and concentrate on seeking the truth as taught by Jesus.

It was during this time that Our Lady began to take me in hand and guide me towards the Catholic Church. At that time, I remember the view taken in the Baptist Church over the words uttered by Jesus on the Cross to Mary “Woman, behold your Son” and to John, “Behold your mother”. It was simply seen as John taking Mary to his own house and looking after her. I found it incredible that the last words of Jesus on the Cross could be dismissed in such a facile way. Thanks to my newly found Catholic friends and my Scripture study I was beginning to see the teachings of Christ in a completely new light. I was beginning to see that Jesus had given me His Mother on the Cross.

I was like an orphan who had never known his mother and now after all these years had found her and wanted to know all about her. As I meditated on the rosary each day, I found myself being drawn more and more towards her as I reflected on her life and read about her in various Catholic books. Like an orphan who is reunited with his mother I wanted to know everything about her. My friends took me to Lourdes and Fatima and other

places where Our Lady had appeared. It was really Our Lady herself who was taking me to these shrines and helping me to get to know her, to understand more fully her role in the Church and to discover my true Christian roots.

### **Fatima**

I fell in love with Fatima. I experienced such joy and peace when I first went there. I walked to the village of Aljustrel to visit the homes of the children and then to the parish church of Fatima where, like Francisco, I spent several hours on my own in front of the Blessed Sacrament praying rosaries. A year before my visit there I had been helping my nurse friend put together a script she was preparing for a slide show which she was going to show in church halls. The script was telling the story of Fatima and when I first read it the message did not really





affect me as I did not know much about the Catholic faith at the time. Little was I to know then that the message of Fatima and that script was to play a big part in my life before long.

It was at this time that I came to know about A Day With Mary. It was 1986 and the nurse and my friends in our little prayer cenacle had been asked to help out at a day of prayer and devotion called A Day With Mary. I was asked to come and help, and I remember enrolling in the Brown Scapular wishing to place myself under the protection of Our Lady. I found the day rather disappointing and when asked to help out at the next A Day With Mary I declined. I already had enough to do and this apostolate had not appealed to me.

Our Lady, however, had other ideas. I went along to the next venue with my nurse friend just to pray, but I fell in love with the whole day. It was so different from the previous venue as the whole day came alive in the singing, the preaching and the prayer and I experienced such joy. I was happy to offer a helping hand again when asked, not realising that I would still be doing this thirty three years later.

I was beginning to realise that Our Lady had plans for me and that she would not take no for an answer! As A Day With Mary was based on the Fatima message I began to understand more deeply the message of Fatima and found it incredible that despite the miracle of the sun, the promised appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the headlines of the events reported in national newspapers at the time, the world was not taking any

notice of what Our Lady had asked and most people had never heard of Fatima. The sacrifices and sufferings of Jacinta made a deep impression on me. I was beginning to feel the desire in me to help spread devotion to the Immaculate Heart through A Day With Mary.

Within a year I was asked to take over presenting the slide show on Fatima at A Day With Mary. This was the very same slide show my nurse friend had been working on when I first came to know her. She had joined A Day With Mary and had had been presenting the slide show but now she had left to try her vocation with the Benedictine nuns. Considering my shyness it was a minor miracle in itself that I was able to say yes and do the slide show. I have no doubt that it was Mary who helped me find the confidence to work for her in the public eye at different Catholic churches as a non-Catholic! Over the years I have come to understand the importance of saying 'yes' and trusting Our Lady even when I have no experience in whatever task I am asked to do!

Working for Our Lady in A Day With Mary was also helping me to feel more and more drawn towards the Catholic Church. I found myself attending the Baptist Church less and less and I came to realise that more and more I was thinking to become a Catholic. I remember a visit to Fatima and the last day when early in the morning our group of pilgrims attended Mass at the Capelinha. Again I was so at peace there and I recall at the moment of Holy Communion looking at the statue of Our Lady of Fatima and longing with all my heart at that moment to have been able

to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

### **Coming Home**

Shortly after this visit to Fatima on 12 July 1988 I informed a priest that I wished to become a Catholic. I chose this date deliberately as in Northern Ireland there is a great display of Protestantism on this date as the Protestants celebrate the arrival of William of Orange in 1690 to disperse the Catholics who had laid siege to the city of Londonderry. By deciding to become a Catholic on this date I wanted to show in my own small way that I rejected this political hijacking of religion and that I was embracing the Catholic Church because it, and not Protestantism, contained the true faith handed down by Christ.

I then went home to Northern Ireland to tell my parents of this decision. At first, I found it difficult to approach the subject as I worried about how my parents would react to their son becoming a Catholic. I should have trusted in the Blessed Mother more as I worried needlessly. My parents' reaction was to say that whatever made me happy in life would make them happy.

During my stay there I went each day to the Catholic church to pray and attend Mass. I had been to this church once previously some years before when one of my brothers had married a Catholic girl there. I never imagined then that many years later I would be worshipping at this church as a Catholic.

I also told my nurse friend of my decision. She had given up nursing and was now a Benedictine postulant in the enclosed convent at Tyburn. For two years or more she had been praying for



my conversion and her efforts had now been rewarded. She was my godmother when I was received into the Catholic Church at Tyburn Convent on 29 October 1988. The date was chosen because it was Our Lady's month, the month too when Cardinal Newman was received into the Catholic Church, and the feast of the Blessed Martyrs of Douai College. I was received into the Catholic Church at Tyburn Convent in the martyrs' crypt because it was the only way the former nurse, now my godmother, could be present. The Mother General had kindly given her permission and some of the nuns were present during my reception into the Catholic Church.

I also felt it was a great honour to be received into the Catholic Church in the martyrs' crypt. They had given their lives to defend the truth and here was I acknowledging that truth by turning my back on Protestantism and embracing the Catholic Church. I had finally reached my true home, my true Mother, my true family. The next morning when I was alone at early Sunday Mass I broke down in tears during the Gloria. I was so happy!

**Treasures of the Catholic Church**  
As I reflect now 32 years after I was received into the Catholic Church, I realise more than ever the presence of Our Lady throughout that time of preparation. Through my longing to turn back to God, to pray, Our Lady reached out to me through the rosary and answered my immediate needs. Through the ensuing months little by little she revealed to me the riches contained within the Catholic Church.

She showed me how the Church was at continuous prayer throughout the world as Mass was being offered up at every moment and the prayer of the Church was being recited continuously in monasteries, convents, churches and among the laity throughout the world. For me it was another gift from Our Lady to be able to go into any Catholic church each day to pray and spend time alone with God, to be a part of that continuous prayer being offered up to God, to truly feel part of one worldwide Church. As a Baptist we only went to church on a Sunday so there was never the opportunity for daily worship.

I who had been searching for ways to pray to God joyfully prayed the Divine Office each day in union with the Church throughout the world. I could not believe how the Christian world could so easily cast aside the wealth of teachings of the early Fathers of the Church and with the Reformation reject all that had been present in the Church until then, especially the Mother of Jesus, destroying many of her images. People had rejected the Truth to join churches which were man made! Through ignorance, I too, until now, had not appreciated these rich treasures of the faith handed down by the earlier Church.

"Do whatever he tells you." Mary pondered the word of God continuously and, as I became aware of her growing presence in my life, I found myself being drawn to the study of Scripture to discover the real truth of Christ's teaching. I came to realise that this Truth existed within the Catholic Church alone. Only the Catholic Church had remained

faithful to the teachings of Christ and was the custodian of that Truth. The more I pondered Scripture the more I found it hard to deny.

Just as Our Lady had pondered things in her heart she helped me to ponder Scripture in relation to the teachings of the Catholic Church and prepared me to come to know the greatest gift of all: Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence. With the help of good Catholic friends and my attendance at Bible study I came to see for the first time the significance of Christ's words, "This is my body....this is my blood", to understand the importance of the primacy of Peter, and the sacraments handed down by Christ to his Church.

Attending sung Latin Masses, hearing the Tantum Ergo sung in Gregorian chant during Benediction, being present at first Fridays in honour of the Sacred Heart, the celebrations at Christmas and Easter, the Holy Hour of adoration, all left lasting impressions on me. It is not possible to put into words the profound effect this had on me. Never had I experienced anything like this before where so much love is poured out in thanksgiving for Christ's sacrifice on Calvary and the gift of himself, his Real Presence, to be received in Holy Communion and to be present always for me in the tabernacle. From thinking of God only on a Sunday Our Lady was bringing Jesus to me in such a way that I wanted him to be present with me each day. I wanted to put him at the centre of each day and Our Lady, Mother of the Church, was showing me how. The sacrifice of Jesus was at the centre of each Mass. Yet in my





early years as a Baptist it was never like this.

Another gift from Our Lady was the Stations of the Cross. As a Baptist I could never recall hearing much about Our Lord's Passion and the meaning of suffering in life. Through the Stations of the Cross I began to see the importance of suffering in the spiritual life and the importance of Our Lady's suffering with Christ for the redeeming of souls. For me it was such a beautiful simple devotion which all the laity could take part in just like the Rosary. This sort of participation had been totally alien to me before.

Yet another reason for being drawn towards the Catholic Church was the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. Here was someone who was an example to all as to how to love Our Lady. Here was someone who preached the truth of the Gospel in and out of season and who did not give way on any contentious issue. For me he was a symbol of unity, of authority, of love, of humility and I warmed to him the more I read his writings. For me he was the Rock where I wanted to be.

Our Lady had opened up for me these treasures of the Catholic Church and it was in A Day With Mary that I came to find all these treasures and more besides when I first attended as a non-Catholic.

### **A Day With Mary**

The aim of A Day With Mary is to spread devotion to Our Lady, to make her known and loved throughout the world, and through her to spread Eucharistic devotion to all corners of the earth. I was blessed to be a non-Catholic helping to achieve this aim but at the same time to be one of the people A Day With Mary was aiming to reach. I was learning to love Our Lady more, to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and to help

through A Day With Mary to bring this Marian and Eucharistic devotion to others.

I was eternally grateful to Our Lady for rescuing my soul, from taking me from a life of emptiness to a new life within the Catholic Church and within this apostolate. In Fatima she had revealed to the children her heart crowned with thorns because of the sins committed against God and from seeing so many souls being lost to hell. She was calling to us to work with her to save these souls. Like Francisco I too wanted to respond to Our Lady by saying many rosaries.

As I came to accept more and more Mary, as my mother, I realised that I was changing. I loved her so much that I did not wish to offend her in any way. I was wanting to do all things well for love of her and not to let her down. I was learning to offer everything to her, to abandon myself trustingly into her care and to let myself be used by her for whatever purpose. All this I was learning through A Day With Mary.

For me A Day With Mary was a response to Our Lord's words on the Cross: 'Behold, your Mother.' On the sanctuary at each A Day With Mary was Our Lady, pointing everyone to Jesus, to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to Eucharistic Adoration. She remained there throughout the day of prayer next to Jesus. The people remained there too offering their prayers, sacraments, penances, sufferings, acts of thanksgiving through Mary. It was truly a humbling experience for me to see many people at each Day With Mary kneeling before their Mother, imploring her, thanking her or just being with her. Just as with my nurse friend I could see in these people a great love for Mary and a willingness to share that love. These

people were willing to be with Jesus and Mary at the foot of the Cross rather than to run away.

I could also see it in the small group who made up the A Day With Mary Team. I felt honoured to be a part of that team even though I was not a Catholic, to be accepted by them and to be encouraged by them.

'Jesus wants to make use of you, to make me known and loved': the words of Our Lady to Sr. Lucia. This too was now my desire and A Day With Mary fulfilled that desire. It was very missionary in spirit bringing Jesus and Mary to different churches in different parts of England. In those early years we experienced such joy travelling together with Our Lady to different churches. I felt it must have been like the beginnings of the Church when Mary was in the upper room with the apostles preparing them for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. With the coming of Pentecost the apostles started their missionary work going out to the people. For me Mary was with us preparing us for our apostolate, to go out to different churches, to spread devotion to her Immaculate Heart and to help save souls.

It was a divine gift from Mary to be a part of this apostolate. I, a nothing, called by her, to help her in her work as Co-Redemptrix to save souls. She was desiring my 'fiat', for me to let her into my life, so that I might live my life in her. I realised I needed her help to grow in humility. I was like a child completely happy to place myself in the embrace of Mary, letting her take care of me and show me what to do. In A Day With Mary, Mass, sermons, adoration all helped me to know Mary better as my Mother and to prepare me for the moment when I would embrace my

Mother completely by entering into full communion with the Catholic Church.

### Need for Mary

Often, I have heard criticism that too much devotion to Mary takes one away from Jesus. As a non-Catholic I was experiencing the opposite. I found that in coming to know and love Mary I was thirsting more for the Word of God and for knowledge of the teachings of the Church. I was searching for the Truth and Mary was my teacher. I was seeking the way of perfection and Mary was my model.

I discovered also that as I gave myself more and more to Mary I was more at peace and I could face whatever trials came with that inner peace because I trusted in Mary to guide me to do the will of God. Even when there were times I was anxious I did not despair because I just knew that Mary was with me.

I remember on one occasion not long after I became a Catholic I was mugged on the way home one evening. I was attacked by six youths who pushed me to the ground and started kicking me, intent on robbing me. I had been walking along saying my rosary when this happened. I remember as I lay on the ground that I said softly, three words, "Mary, help me". Immediately through the darkness someone shouted out and the six youths ran away. The voice belonged to a gardener in the park who had just come out of the hut and had seen what had happened. He was too far away to help so he had just yelled. That was enough. I was so elated that Our Lady had answered my prayer so quickly that I continued my journey home in this state of happiness, forgetting the danger in which I had found myself.

I recall too in those early days, when I was learning about Our Lady, the discussions I had with a priest and good friends in Fatima. They pointed out to me that God was showing us that we should come to Jesus through Mary. At the Incarnation Jesus came through Mary to die on the Cross for the salvation of all mankind. To attain salvation, he wants us to come to him through his mother.

The more I pondered on this the more I could find no reason to disagree. I also came to realise that all graces come to



us through Mary. I began see this at the Visitation of Mary to her cousin St. Elizabeth when John leapt in his mother's womb at the greeting of Mary to Elizabeth. He had received God's grace from Jesus through Mary.

Similarly, it was to Mary that the shepherds and the wise men came when they wanted to adore Jesus. It was Mary too who presented Jesus to Simeon in the temple to adore. I was seeing more and more clearly the significance of the child Jesus in the arms of his mother in so many statues and paintings in the Catholic Church. Mary was important for the salvation of souls. Just how important was revealed at Calvary when from the Cross it was now Jesus giving Mary to us. It was as if to say to us that for us to journey through life with our cross and to reach salvation we needed Mary. From the moment of the Annunciation Our Lady was working with Jesus to save souls. If I wanted to pick up my cross and follow Jesus, I needed to turn to Mary to help me on my pilgrim journey to the Father.

It was in A Day With Mary that I was able to love her more and more as my Mother. In A Day With Mary Our Lady was teaching and instructing me through her priests, through the meditations on the rosary, through silent adoration and through Confession. As a non-Catholic to see queues of people throughout the afternoon seeking Confession was a humbling experience. To be able to unburden oneself before the Lord in this

sacrament and receive his forgiveness and the grace to persevere was a tremendous gift from God. Again, in Scripture I could see how this sacrament was handed down by Jesus himself to Peter and the apostles. I felt a great sadness as I came to realise how many Christians had lost this most beautiful sacrament when they separated from the Catholic Church. Indeed, as I reflect on my own conversion, I realise that the long-standing traditions and devotions in the Catholic Church had played a significant part.

Mary, my Mother. Yes, she is my Mother, she is the Mother of every human being. From the moment I discovered her through the rosary I have been drawn to this Mother and as I continue my pilgrimage through life I find her ever more present in my life. It is a great comfort to know that the Mother of God loves me so much and that I am in my own little way working through her for the salvation of souls.

Yet if it had not been for the witness of that nurse, I may never have come to know this Mother. Our Lady worked through that nurse to rescue my soul and to help me to become a branch which starts to bear fruit. We must show that love for Our Blessed Mother to the world, to be always at Her disposal, to allow her to bring salvation to souls through our humble efforts and thus fulfil the wish of Jesus, dying on the Cross, who gave Mary to each one of us as our Mother.



**O Holy Night**

[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid5](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid5)



**Silent Night**

[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid6](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid6)

# Have you met young Carlo yet?



Many of our Day With Mary pilgrims would have been at Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 13th July 2019 when, like me, they first heard the name of Carlo Acutis. Many would have seen the exhibition featuring the young Italian boy, Carlo that day, and heard the homily about him. As a member of the Day With Mary team, I had arrived at 8am that morning to prepare the Cathedral for our event which was due to start at 10am.

The Cathedral had set up an exhibition, which was around the whole interior perimeter of the building. I personally had to move some of the exhibits to position our cables and spotlights ready for the day. Of course you cannot do this without noticing and reading the contents of the notice boards. This gave me some privileged preparation for the homily that Canon Tim Madeley would deliver later in the day. I say privileged because at that stage I had no idea of the subject of his

homily.

Few would have expected to hear such a lovely homily about someone so young on the way to sainthood for his work. Normally young saints have to suffer martyrdom. During his well directed homily we heard about young Carlo living in Italy, the family had moved from London where he had been born on 3rd May 1991. He received his 1st Holy Communion at St Ambrogio ad Nemos Convent in Milan a year early. This was to be the event that changed his life dramatically. He committed himself at the age of 7 years to go to regular Mass. He was a regular at confession making a real witness to other youngsters. He saw the Eucharist as the fastest way to reach Heaven and he loved Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He had a Polish babysitter and she taught him how to pray the Holy Rosary and it became a daily event for him. At this stage in his

life he started to have a profound effect on the religious life of his mother. By her own admission she had not been a practicing Catholic and could really only remember Church visits for her Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage. Her husband, however, was a more committed Catholic. Carlo became a Catechist and taught young children, and while at school he worked with the homeless and destitute. Seeing God in all people's suffering.

Many would have been surprised at the subject that was this young lad's 'gifted' work. He was a mathematical genius and was inspired by Fr. Giacomo Alberione, who was using the media to Evangelise. Carlo was 9 years old when he started to study computer science. He became a 'whizz' with computers and good at hi-tech logic. His understanding allowed him to teach himself computer programming, whilst at the same time he enjoyed sport and football like all other boys.

He started to explore, on the internet, the many Catholic Eucharistic Miracles that were recorded throughout the world. He was amazed that there were so many and surprised at the lack of documentation for them. So he started to assemble and collate them on the internet. At 11 years of age he started to work on his exhibition that he completed in 2005, some 3 years later. He created this as a free access exhibition for all to use. This work sent out the message to the young who on the internet found these Eucharist Miracles. He said that, "the more we receive the Eucharist the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven." Taking these messages to so many youngsters in such a short time has been the inspiration to promote his cause for Sainthood. Pope Francis has said "Carlo is a model for young people to put God first."

Whilst travelling around doing this work he had also acquired a love for apparition sites of Our Lady. He decided to start similar documentation work. His mother had now become involved with him on this task. His favourite apparition site was at Fatima, the museum there have one of his Rosaries and a rucksack.

It was at this stage in his life that he was diagnosed with leukaemia and unfortunately died after a short period of suffering. He offered up his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and the Catholic Church. He died on 12th October 2006 at 6.45am and asked to be buried in Assisi. He had not been able to complete the work he started on the apparitions



of Our Lady, but his mother managed to complete it for him. This also is now freely available to everyone on his website. ([www.carloacutis.com](http://www.carloacutis.com)) In concluding his homily, Canon Tim

**Watch Homily  
by Canon Tim**



[www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid7](http://www adaywithmary.org/mag1/vid7)

used the very apt expression that sums up this amazing young man's life. He said that 'Carlo had used the internet as his motorway to Heaven'. So that was my introduction, and like so many, I took away the brief memory with such admiration. However, related to a young man so far away in Italy, it had no profound effect on my life. That was until this year, when during the strange Covid experience we were all going through in

our Churches, the name of Carlo Acutis was re-echoed.

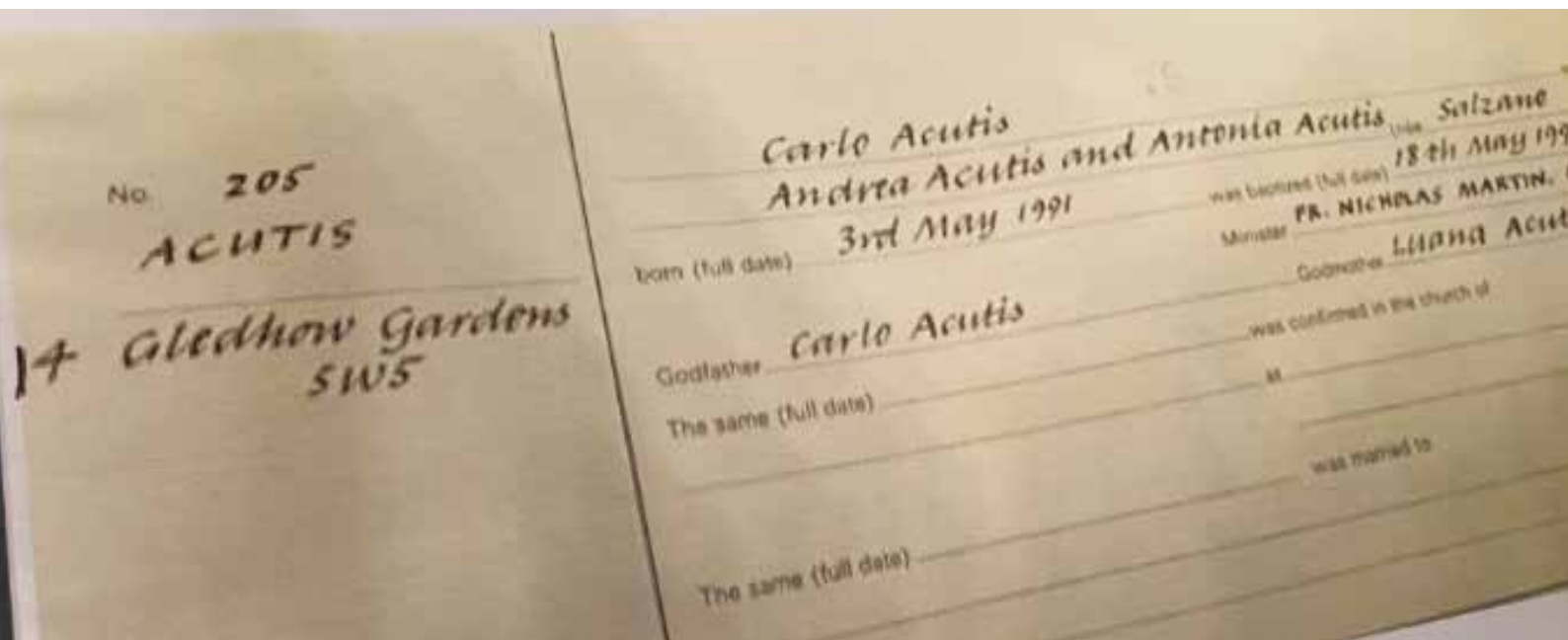
His Beatification took place on 10th October 2020 in Assisi with Cardinal Agostino Vallini. This time the effect was a profound one! I was made more aware of the fullness of the life of this truly inspirational young man, and in much greater detail.

He was baptised on 18th May 1991 in London at the Servite Church in Fulham Road SW10 'Our Lady of Dolours'. Wow! That's my Church. My Baptism certificate was dated some 26 years before that of Carlo. I had my Instruction and Baptism there when I was received into the Catholic Church as a 20 year old. The very font in the Baptistry that I had walked past so many, many times, now had such a Saintly appearance for me. It now has pilgrimage value to young people. I have seen them kneeling in long periods of prayer. People have travelled

across London to seek his intercession during these suffering times with Church closures. Carlo's intercession graced a young Brazilian boy who was suffering from pancreatic cancer in 2013, and was healed. This was a miracle attested to Carlo.

So now I find I cannot attend my Parish Church without stopping each time at the Baptistry. I also feel that Carlo and I were destined to be aware of each other, to my absolute amazement, I have found that we were neighbours. Whilst in London he lived with his family in the house 5 doors down from where I lived in Kensington those years before. Of all the thousands of streets in the borough! We live in and are all part of God's plan for us, and we give thanks for young Carlo.

God bless you Blessed Carlo, please pray for us.





# Mother Mariana of Jesus Torres y Berriochoa

***OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS, also known as OUR LADY OF GOOD EVENT (1563-1635) Events of Our Times***

Mariana Francisca was born to Don Diego Torres and Dona Maria Berriochoa, both noble Spaniards and fervent Catholics. From an early age she developed an ardent devotion for the Blessed Sacrament. Because of her spiritual maturity, her confessor allowed her to receive Communion at nine years which at the time was considered very early for first communicants.

So intense was Mariana's joy at receiving the Blessed Sacrament she fell into a deep trance. During this ecstatic "trance" she saw Our Lord Jesus as a young boy of her own age placing a ring on her finger, claiming her for Himself. Mariana readily accepted this proposal. The Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph witnessed the event and stood as sponsors to this spiritual engagement.

In this same vision the Blessed Virgin showed her that she was destined to belong to her Order of the Immaculate Conception. This order had recently been founded by another privileged soul, St. Beatrix da Silva, a Portuguese woman of noble lineage. The great

love of S.t Beatrix was the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God. After many sufferings and difficulties, she founded this new order to honor this exalted privilege of Mary Most Holy, centuries before it was declared a dogma of the Faith. The new order adopted the Franciscan rule and took Saint Francis of Assisi as their mentor and father.

Some influential and pious ladies in the then Spanish colony of Ecuador learned of this recently established order and wished to have it established in Quito, their country's capital.

They submitted their request for this to King Philip II of Spain. Granting their petition he named a nun of great virtue, Mother Maria of Jesus Taboada, to head the foundation of the new convent. This virtuous and holy nun was an aunt of Mariana and she was to be accompanied by six other nuns, all women of great merit and solid virtue. They were Mothers Francisca of the Angels, Anne of the Conception, Lucy of the Cross, Magdalen of Saint John, Catherine of the Conception, and Maria of the Incarnation.

Mariana was at the time only nine years old, but one day as she received Holy Communion the Lord again appeared to her and told her that He wished her to leave her father's house and to embrace His cross in a far-off land. Mariana understood that she was to go with her aunt as part of the expedition to found the order of the Immaculate Conception in the Americas. Her parents gave their permission and she travelled with her aunt to Quito, Ecuador.

The voyage proved eventful in a frightening manner. No sooner had the ship left port than a terrible tempest overtook them. The frightened sailors did not know what to do and thought all was lost, Mariana screamed and fainted, but Mother Maria prayed to God with all her soul, asking that if He truly willed that the foundation be accomplished, He quell the storm. As soon as Mother Maria said this prayer, Mariana opened her eyes and the light of day overcame the darkness of the storm. But a terrible voice was heard: "I will not allow this foundation to come about; I will not allow its progress; I will not allow it to endure to the end of time; I will persecute it."

Mother Maria knew that Mariana had seen something during her faint and, retiring with her to a secluded place, asked her to relate all she had been shown.

"I don't know where I have been, my Mother, but I saw a serpent bigger than the sea, twisting and contorting

itself. Then I saw a lady of incomparable beauty, garbed with the sun and crowned with stars and with a babe in her arms. On the lady's breast I saw a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament. In one of her hands she held a golden cross having a lance point. Anchoring the lance over the Blessed Sacrament and in the infant's hand, she struck at the serpent's head with such force that it was completely split. At that moment the serpent cried out all his horrible threats about not allowing the founding of the Order of the Immaculate Conception."

Mother Maria understood all that this vision signified and was later to have a large medal cast depicting the scene. To this day, the nuns of the Immaculate Conception of Quito wear this medal over their habits.

Arriving in Quito on December 30, 1576, the foundresses were received with great joy and housed in a few of the inhabitable buildings of the convent, which was still under construction. When the construction was concluded, the official founding took place on January 13, 1577. Soon, several young girls of Quito began to request admission to the convent of the Immaculate Conception and the conventual life was in full bloom.

At fifteen, Mariana entered the novitiate and, a few years later, professed. As she pronounced her vows before Mother Maria Taboada on the day of her nuptials, she was taken up into an ecstasy. While on earth her lips formed the words for the formula of her vows and her body remained supple for the clothing, her soul was in the presence of God Our Lord.

Our Lord Jesus presented His own cross to His spouse and showed her all the enormous sufferings, persecutions, sicknesses, and temptations she would undergo for His sake and ours. He preserved her only from temptations against purity. She was never to have a single thought or inclination against this angelic virtue.

After her profession, Our Lord again appeared to Mother Mariana and gave her the schedule to be observed in the free hours of the community and the penances she should perform during the week.

These penances were so severe that Mother Maria Taboada feared for her health. But, in another vision, Our Lord placed a drop of crystalline water from His wounded side on Mariana's lips and fortified her for all He asked of her.

The extreme penances practised by her can only be understood when we consider



that she was called to be a victim for the twentieth century. One of her mortifications included wrapping nearly her whole body in wires with iron points, even her ears, leaving only her face and hands free. Thus she lived a penitential, prayerful life, ever increasing in virtue.

In the year 1582, as she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament in the choir of the convent she heard a terrifying rumble and saw the church enveloped in a thick, smoke-filled darkness. The main altar alone remained illuminated, as if in broad daylight. There, the tabernacle door swung open and our crucified Lord came forth, nailed to a life-size cross. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint John the Evangelist, and Saint Mary Magdalen stood by, as on Calvary. Our Lord was in agony.

The young nun heard a voice: "This punishment is for the twentieth century." Then she saw three swords hanging over Our Lord's head, each with an inscription. On the first was written, "I

shall punish heresy"; on the second, "I shall punish blasphemy"; and on the third, "I shall punish impurity."

Then the Blessed Virgin addressed the young nun: "My daughter, do you wish to sacrifice yourself for these people?"

"I am ready." At that, the three swords plunged into the nun's heart.

Her whole life became one act of suffering for the sins of the world, and she received many visions that include the request for the now famous statue of Our Lady of Good Success, as well as revelations about the future state of mankind and what would happen, the accounts of which are too many to include here, but included below are some of the most important visions that foretell the degradation of the world, and that the 19th and 20th centuries would bring in the greatest evils. Her visions are also related to the promised 'Angelic Pontiff' prophecies as Our Lady requested the faithful to pray for the



‘prelate’ who would restore all. As this has not happened yet, we can assume it will happen sometime in the 21st century.

On 8 December 1634, the apparition predicted that papal infallibility “will be declared a dogma of the Faith by the same Pope chosen to proclaim the dogma of the Mystery of My Immaculate Conception”. In 1854, Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, and in 18 July 1870, he declared the dogma of papal infallibility with the dogmatic constitution “Pastor aeternus” as defined by the First Vatican Council:

*“...We teach and define that it is a dogma Divinely revealed that the Roman pontiff when he speaks ex cathedra, that is when in discharge of the office of pastor and doctor of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the universal Church, by the Divine assistance promised to him in Blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed that his Church should be endowed in defining doctrine regarding faith or morals, and that therefore such definitions of the Roman pontiff are of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church, irreformable”.*

Mother Mariana died on 16 January 1635, shortly after the last apparition. When her tomb was reopened in 1906 her body was found to be incorrupt. The Archdiocese of Quito opened her cause for canonization in 1986. Her visions had already been approved as early as 1611 during her lifetime by the local bishop.

### WARNINGS FOR THE 20th CENTURY

St. Michael to Sr. Mariana de Torres:

*“Through this devotion (to Our Lady of Good Success), Our Lord will grant great miracles, spiritual as well as temporal, first to your (Sr Marianne’s) community, so that in it He will always find a safeguard (victim souls) and secondly, to the devout faithful, above all to those at the end of the 19th and 20th Centuries, for those times will see the chosen ones of His heart, times during which hell would be unleashed and many souls would be lost.”*



Our Lady of Good Success promised, *“The small number of souls, who hidden, will preserve the treasures of the Faith and practise virtue will suffer a cruel, unspeakable and prolonged martyrdom. Many will succumb to death from the violence of their sufferings and those who sacrifice themselves for the Church and their country will be counted as martyrs. In order to free men from the bondage to these heresies, those whom the merciful love of my most Holy Son has designated to effect the restoration, will need great strength of will, constancy, valour and confidence of the just. There will be occasions when all will seem lost and paralysed. This then will be the happy beginning of the complete restoration.”*

#### January 21, 1610

Our Lady of Good Success: Thus, I make it known to you that from the end of the 19th century and from shortly after the middle of the 20th century, in what is



today the Colony and will then be the Republic of Ecuador, the passions will erupt and there will be a total corruption of customs, for Satan will reign almost completely by means of the Masonic Sects. They will focus principally on the children in order to sustain this general corruption. Woe to the children of these times!

It will be difficult to receive the Sacrament of Baptism and also the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will receive the Sacrament of Confession only if they remain in Catholic schools, for the Devil will make a great effort to destroy it through persons in position of authority. The same thing will happen with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Alas! How deeply I grieve to manifest to you the many enormous sacrileges – both public as well as secret – that will occur from profanation of the Holy Eucharist. Often, during this epoch the enemies of Jesus Christ, instigated by the Devil, will steal consecrated Hosts from the churches so that they might profane the Eucharistic Species. My Most Holy Son will see Himself cast upon the ground and trampled upon by filthy feet.

But in those times you will already be known, as well as the favours that I am bestowing on you. How I love the fortunate inhabitants of this sacred place! And that knowledge will stimulate love and devotion to my Sacred Statue. For this reason, today, I authoritatively order you to have this Statue made: let it be sculptured just as you see Me and placed upon the Abbess's chair, so that from there I may govern and direct my daughters and defend my Convent; for Satan, making use of both the good and the evil, will engage in a fierce battle to destroy it.

Since this poor Country will lack the Catholic spirit, the Sacrament of Extreme Unction will be little valued. Many people will die without receiving it, either because of the negligence of their families or misconceived affection for their sick ones. Others, incited by the cursed Devil, will rebel against the spirit of the Catholic Church and will deprive countless souls of innumerable graces, consolations, and the strength they need to make the great leap from time to eternity. But some persons will die without receiving it due to just and secret chastisements of God.

As for the Sacrament of Matrimony, which symbolises the union of Christ with His Church, it will be attacked



and deeply profaned. Freemasonry, which will then be in power, will enact iniquitous laws with the aim of doing away with this Sacrament, making it easy for everyone to live in sin and encouraging the procreation of illegitimate children born without the blessing of the Church. The Catholic spirit will rapidly decay; the precious light of Faith will gradually be extinguished until there will be an almost total and general corruption of customs. Added to this will be the effects of secular education, which will be one reason for the death of priestly and religious vocations.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be ridiculed, oppressed, and despised, for in this Sacrament, the Church of God and even God Himself is scorned and despised since He is represented in His priests. The Devil will try to persecute the ministers of the Lord in every possible way; he will labour with cruel and subtle astuteness to deviate them from the spirit

of their vocation and will corrupt many of them. These depraved priests, who will scandalise the Christian people, will make the hatred of bad Catholics and the enemies of the Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church fall upon all priests.

This apparent triumph of Satan will bring enormous suffering to the good Pastors of the Church, the many good priests, and the Supreme Pastor and Vicar of Christ on earth, who, a prisoner in the Vatican, will shed secret and bitter tears in the presence of his God and Lord, beseeching light, sanctity and perfection for all the clergy of the world, of whom he is King and Father. Further, in these unhappy times, there will be unbridled luxury which will ensnare the rest into sin and conquer innumerable frivolous souls who will be lost. Innocence will almost no longer be found in children, nor modesty in women.

In this supreme moment of need of the Church, the one who should speak will fall silent!





You will see this from Heaven, my beloved daughter, where you can no longer suffer, but your daughters and successors will suffer, those beloved souls already known to you who will placate the Divine Ire. They will have recourse to Me under the invocation of Our Lady of Good Success, whose Statue I ask and command that you have made for the consolation and preservation of my Convent and of the faithful souls of that time, an epoch when there will be a great devotion to Me, for I am Queen of Heaven under many invocations. This devotion will be the shield between Divine Justice and the prevaricating world to prevent the release of God's formidable punishment that this guilty earth deserves.

February 1610: (Our Lady to Mother Mariana) As for your request that your name be hidden, this pleases me, and I will do as you have asked. Tell the Bishop that it is my will and the will of my Most Holy Son that your name be hidden at all costs, both within as well as outside the cloister, for it is not fitting for anyone at the present time to know the details or origin of how this Statue came to be made. For this knowledge will only become known to the general public in the 20th century.

During that epoch the Church will find herself attacked by terrible hordes of the Masonic sect, and this poor Ecuadorian land will be agonizing because of the corruption of customs, unbridled luxury, the impious press, and secular education. The vices of impurity, blasphemy, and

sacrilege will dominate in this time of depraved desolation, and that one who should speak out will be silent.

A simple, humble faith in the truth of my apparitions to you, my favoured child, will be reserved for the humble and fervent who are docile to the inspirations of grace, for our Heavenly Father communicates His secrets to the simple of heart, and not to those whose hearts are inflated with pride, pretending to know what they do not or infatuated with empty science.

February 1634, Our Lady:  
In order to free men from bondage to these heresies, those whom the merciful love of My Most Holy Son will destine for that restoration will need great strength of will, constancy, valor and confidence in God. To test this faith and confidence of the just, there will be occasions in which everything will seem to be lost and paralyzed. This will be, then, the happy beginning of the complete restoration.

During this unfortunate epoch, injustice will even enter here, my closed garden. (i.e. Even Mother Mariana's order will be infiltrated with the errors of the times.) Disguised under the name of false charity, it will wreak havoc in souls. The spiteful demon will try to sow discord, making use of putrid members, who, masked by the appearance of virtue, will be like decaying sepulchres emanating the pestilence of putrefaction, causing moral deaths in some and lukewarmness in others.

The spirit of impurity that will saturate the atmosphere in those times. Like a filthy ocean, it will inundate the streets, squares and public places with an astonishing liberty. There will be almost no virgin souls in the world.

How the Church will suffer on that occasion the dark night of the lack of a Prelate and Father to watch over them with paternal love, gentleness, strength, and prudence. Many priests will lose their spirit, placing their souls in great danger. Pray insistently without tiring and weep with bitter tears in the secrecy of your heart, imploring our Celestial Father that, for love of the Eucharistic Heart of my Most Holy Son and His Precious Blood shed with such generosity and by the profound bitterness and sufferings of His cruel Passion and Death, He might take pity on His Ministers and quickly bring to an end those ominous times, sending to this Church the Prelate that will restore the spirit of its Priests. (i.e. This must be a request that God send the Angelic Pontiff of prophecies past.)



*"... for I am Queen of Heaven under many invocations".*

*One of these invocations true to the Queen of our present times surely is:*

*"Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of Fatima".*

# A DAY WITH MARY

## 2021 VENUES

Subject to change, due to government guidelines.  
More venues to be announced

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Westminster Cathedral
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Our Lady of Fatima, White City
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Church of Holy Name, Bow Common
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	St Mary's Catholic Church, Gosport
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> May	St Bede, Clapham Park
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jul	Arundel Cathedral (Mass 10.30am)
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Our Lady & St Peter, Wimbledon Common
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Jul	St Anselm, Tooting Bec
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jul	Our Lady's Shrine, Walsingham
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	St James, Spanish Place
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Our Lady, Mother of God, Ponders End
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	The Five Precious Wounds, Stonebridge
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	St Anselm, Dartford
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Our Lady of Mt Carmel & St George, Enfield
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Westminster Cathedral

## Support A Day With Mary - Donate

If you would like to support the work of A Day With Mary, please go to [www adaywithmary.org/support](http://www adaywithmary.org/support)



# A DAY WITH MARY

For any information on A Day With Mary please enquire at any venue or see [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org) or write to:

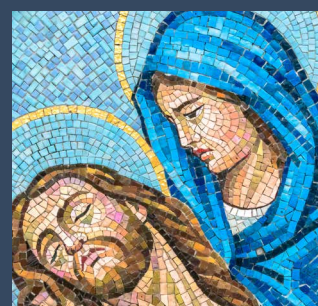
A Day With Mary,  
PO Box 432,  
Sutton SM1 9LF

enclosing a stamped medium S.A.E, or answerphone 020-8641.6418.

E-mail: [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto:adwmary.uk@gmail.com)

All messages left on our answering machine will be returned.

Sorry, no callers in person



*The contents of this magazine may be reproduced,  
provided the source and author, in case there is one, are shown.*