



# The Immaculate Conception

## Introduction

Today we celebrate the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception. What we are celebrating is the radical holiness of Mary, the Mother of God. She was never subject to Satan, the Prince of Darkness. From the very moment of her coming into existence she belonged to the kingdom of God. We too are called to belong to that kingdom.

## First reading (Genesis 3:9-15,20)

When man and woman disobeyed God and fell into sin. God promised salvation from sin through another man and woman, namely, Christ and his Mother.

## Second Reading (Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12)

In his love for us God has adopted us as his sons and daughters. Hence we too are called to a holy and blameless life.

## Gospel (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary's greatness and holiness are due to God's grace and her cooperation with that grace.

## Prayer Of The Faithful

As we praise God for the holiness of Mary, let us pray to him that we may overcome our sinfulness and live up to our dignity as his sons and daughters.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the pope and the bishops: that they may continually remind the People of God of their call to holiness of life. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of humankind: that they may see the holiness of Mary as a model for all that is best and beautiful in humanity. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



## Liturgy Cycle B

For all women, and especially for mothers: that they may experience the help of Mary the Mother of Jesus in all their difficulties. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us: that Mary our Mother may help us to persevere in the struggle against temptation and sin. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

### Communion Reflection

A mother is everything.  
She is our consolation in sorrow,  
our hope in misery,  
our strength in weakness.  
The person who loses a mother  
loses a pure soul,  
a constant source of blessing and protection.

Everything in nature speaks of a mother.  
The sun is the Mother of the earth,  
nourishing it with light and heat.  
It never leaves the universe at night  
until it has put everything to sleep,  
to the songs of the birds and the brooks.  
And the earth, in its turn,  
is the mother of trees and flowers.  
Then the trees in their turn  
become mothers of their fruits and seeds.

And Mary is our spiritual Mother,  
the Mother Jesus gave us as he died.

Holy Mother, pray for us now at the hour  
of our passing from this world to the Father.  
Keep us free from sin,  
and help us to walk in the bright light  
Jesus your Son brought into the world.