

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Introduction: We begin this time of prayer with the Sign of the Cross, 'In the name of the Father and of the Son.....'

Principal/ Class Teacher

During our advent readings we read of Mary saying yes to what God asks of her. The story when the angel Gabriel came to her with the news to tell her that she would have a baby and name him Jesus. We also read the story of when she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth to share her good news and probably needing to talk to her cousin about what it all means. And then we read the story of when Jesus was born at Christmas and later the story when she and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple. In all of these stories Mary listened to what God was asking of her and God telling her, through prayer, that He would always be with her and therefore she need never be afraid.

And so today on December 8th we remember Mary as a strong woman, a woman of great courage and faith. She listened to God, pondering in her heart all that she heard and looking to God as her strength. Each time she said yes to what God asked of her to do.

Today we think of Mary in a special way. And as we think of her we think of all mothers. We ask God to guide them, help them in their role as mothers and to let them know that they are not alone. Give them courage and joy in all that they do for their children and help them in teaching their children, as Mary did, about how God cares and loves us all.

Let us now listen to the Song, 'Mary, Our Mother'

(2nd class, Seasonal Themes, GIL programme has a lovely hymn, 'Mary, our Mother' which can be played, sung here). (double click!)



<https://app.growinlove.ie/en/user/lesson-resources/168>

Mary, our Mother

Refrain: Mary, our mother, the Lord is with you. Guide us, protect us in all that we do.

1. Angel Gabriel said to you. 'You will be mother of Jesus'
2. With Elizabeth you rejoiced, 'I will be mother of Jesus'
3. In a manger in Bethlehem you became mother of Jesus
4. In the temple your baby was blessed, glad to be mother of Jesus
5. In the temple you found your son, proud to be mother of Jesus

Principal/Class Teacher

One prayer that the Church has given us is that of the Rosary, the Rosary helps us reflect on the life of Jesus as he is the Son of God. When we pray the rosary we pray a decade at a time. A decade of the rosary is made up of 1 Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and 1 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.....Each decade is called a mystery and each mystery has a name.

Let us now pray one decade of the Joyful Mysteries called The Annunciation. As we pray it we think of how the angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her that she would have a baby and name him Jesus. Mary was a very special young girl chosen by God for this. She was chosen as she listened to God and looked for signs as to how God was very much a part of her life.

Principal/ Class Teacher

Let us begin

Perhaps a child could lead this over the intercom for the school or a child in the class

Our Father..... 10 Hail Marys.....1 Glory be.....

End: We finish this time of prayer with the Sign of the Cross, 'In the name of the Father and of the Son.....'