

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 19:26-27*)

When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to Her, “Woman, here is Your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took Her into his home. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Mary, our shortcut to Jesus

God the Father gave us Jesus through Mary. *The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).* God is supremely creative. The beauty, order, intricacy, ingenuity and diversity of creation attest to this. God has at His disposal countless ways in which to bring Jesus into the world. In His infinite wisdom, God chose Mary to be the bearer of the Good News, to be the route that Jesus, Son of God took to be born incarnate among His people. Surely taking the same route through Mary and Jesus back to God is an imitation of the infinite wisdom of God?

Jesus gives us Mary to be our Mother (cf. Luke 19:26-27). At the foot of the Cross, Mary stood by Her dying Son who gave Her to John who represented us. Jesus knows we need the motherly love, care and action of Mary to form us, encourage us, and protect us in persevering to walk along the road of faith and holy love to return safely to our final destination. Just as His Mother took care of Him when He was a child, Jesus provided for us to be nurtured and cared of by Mary in our spiritual childhood. Just as Mary gave birth to Jesus and gave Him to the world, we too need Mary’s assistance in conceiving Jesus in our hearts and giving Him to those around us. Mary is only too pleased to help us as Her mission is none other than for the ultimate glory of Her Son, Jesus.

Jesus demonstrated how much power there is in Mary’s intercession. During the wedding at Cana, Jesus changed water into wine at the request of Mary (cf. John 2:1-11). We note here two important points: firstly, although Jesus remarked it was not time for Him to perform the miracle (cf. John 2:4), He did it nonetheless; secondly, it marked the first miracle by Jesus in the Gospel according to John. Jesus found it difficult to refuse His Mother who has great love for Him and great faith in Him. After voicing the request to Jesus, Mother Mary believed the problem to be solved, simply telling the people to do as Jesus tells them (cf. John 2:5).

God the Father decreed that Mary will have great power over Satan. In His infinite wisdom, God the Father planned that Mary’s role will not stop at giving birth to Jesus (though that alone is stupendous grace for Mary), but that she will play a key role alongside with Jesus in the on-going battle against Satan. God’s response to the enmity of Satan and his temporary dominion over the world is to place Jesus and Mary in the frontline in direct confrontation in the battle to crush the ancient serpent. *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and Hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel (Genesis 3:15).* Thus, Mary has great power to protect Her children, who acknowledge and love Her, against the wiles of the devil.

Honour your father and your mother (cf. Deuteronomy 5:16). For all that Mary has done for us, is doing for us and will do for us, we owe Her not just honour but the greatest possible love our hearts can muster for Her who is Mother of our Lord and the Queen of heaven. God wants us to honour Mary, His masterpiece of creation, and this is also provided for in the fourth commandment.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for the inestimable gift of Mary, Your Mother. We are so privileged to have Her! To please You, at the foot of the Cross, Mary embraced the whole of humanity in the loving arms of Her spiritual motherhood. You gave Her to us knowing that Her maternal assistance, protection, and imitation of Her virtues is the shortest, most wholesome and easiest way to Your Sacred Heart. In loving and honouring Her, may our hearts be formed in Her Immaculate Heart to become more and more like Yours. Mary, our Mother and Queen, intercede for us! Thank You Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.