WITH MARY TOWARDS THE SYNODAL ASSEMBLY

Mary, the Mother of God, is always with us on the synodal path, for she is also ‘Mother of the Church’ (*Mater Ecclesiae*); mother of all those who are companions and disciples of her Son. Whenever we are feeling lost, confused, or hesitant about the way, we only have to look to her to point out the way.

THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary…

Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
Be it done unto me according to your Word.
Hail Mary…

And the Word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary…

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray,
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER SERVICE

FOR PARISHES AND GROUPS PLACING THE CHURCH'S ENTIRE SYNODAL PROCESS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH.

12PM AND 6PM
WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY 2023
OR A TIME THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU

Synod 2021 2024
For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Image: the Apparition Chapel at Knock Shrine, Ireland's International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF THE WAY

Placing the Church's entire synodal process, especially the work of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod under the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church.

This late medieval mural of Mary was originally on an external wall of the small chapel of Our Lady of the Way in Rome, where Saint Ignatius prayed and where he eventually set up the headquarters of his new Society. This prayer to Our Lady of the Way can be used as we continue our synodal journey together, invoking the help of Mary and inviting her to walk with us every step of the way.

Opening Hymn

As I kneel before you
As I bow my head in prayer
Take this day, make it yours
And fill me with your love

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Dominus tecum, Benedicta tu

All I have I give you
Every dream and wish are yours
Mother of Christ
Mother of mine, present them to my Lord

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Dominus tecum, Benedicta tu

As I kneel before you
And I see your smiling face
Every thought, every word
Is lost in your embrace

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Dominus tecum, Benedicta tu

The Visitation

From the Gospel of Luke (1:39-45)

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!'

THE SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY OF THE ROSARY

THE VISITATION

As we pray this decade of the rosary, let us reflect on how Mary visited her cousin. Saint Elizabeth's words are not simply a greeting between cousins. Instead, they reveal to us the identities of both Mary and her Child as the Mother of God and Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. The Visitation reminds us that Mary will abide with us in prayer, and with Mary comes the presence of God.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

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.

LITANY

Holy Mary Mother of God
Walk with us on our synodal journey

Mother of the Church
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of the disciples of Jesus
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of the lost and the lonely
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of the confused and hesitant
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of those who are searching and questioning
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of those who are on the margins
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother who gives us direction and points the way ahead
Walk with us and pray for us

LITANY CONTINUED

Woman of silence and reflection
Help us to listen to the Spirit

Woman of service and action
Help us to listen to the Spirit

Woman who sets out in mission
Help us to listen to the Spirit

Woman who directs us towards your Son
Help us to listen to the Spirit

You journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You journeyed on the refugee road into Egypt
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You journeyed as a pilgrim to Jerusalem
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You accompanied your Son Jesus on the road to Calvary
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You walked with the disciples as they shared the Good News
Be with us on our pilgrim way

Holy Mary,
Mother of God
and Mother of the Church.
Guide our steps along the right path.
Direct us towards your Son and
help us to follow Him faithfully.

Our Lady of the Way
Pray for us

Our Lady of the Way
Stay with us

Our Lady of the Way
Walk with us

Let us now place our petitions at the feet of Our Lady, placing the entire synodal process and the work of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, taking place in Rome this October, under the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Closing Hymn

When creation was begun,
God had chosen you to be
Mother of his blessed Son,
Holy Mary, full of grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

When creation was restored,
You were there beside the Lord
Whom you cherished and adored,
Holy Mary, full of grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

All of us are children too,
often doubtful what to do,
Needing to confide in you,
Holy Mary, full of grace.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria