

Celebrating Mary's Month – A Crowning Ceremony

Generally, schools honour Mary in the month of May with the provision of a May altar in the classroom. A decade of the rosary is frequently recited. Some schools visit a local grotto to pray to Mary. Others have the tradition of a May procession in the school grounds. It is a good experience for the child and creates a memory of honour Mary during the month of May.

Needed:

Set up a Prayer Space - table with a white or blue cloth.

Statue of Mary

2 candles in candle holders

2 vases: Each student is invited to bring a flower or a twig which they place in the vases during the ceremony.

A rosary beads

A crown of flowers for Mary

[The statue will be carried in during the Entrance Procession and placed on the prayer table.

The crown of flowers will be placed on the statue during the ceremony.]

Introduction: *(Teacher or Student)*

Welcome to our Prayer Service. During the month of May we honour Mary, the mother of Jesus. During the month of May we pray especially to her. Mary answered God's call to be the mother of Jesus.

Today we honour Mary who followed the will of God all her life. Mary was faithful at the stable in Bethlehem, she was faithful on the flight to Egypt, and she was faithful at the foot of the cross. We pray today that we will follow Mary's example and listen to God and do what God asks with joy.

Hymn: *(A hymn to Mary)*

Procession

A child carries a statue of Mary and places it in the Prayer Space

Two children follow with candles - these are placed at either side of the statue

(A teacher lights the candles)

A child brings a rosary beads and places it in front of the statue

Two children bring 2 vases and place them on the floor at either side of the Prayer Space

Leader:

We think about the times we ignored our mothers when they need our help. *(Pause)*

We think of the times we say 'no' when we should have said 'yes'. *(Pause)*

Opening Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you for Mary, Mother of Jesus, and our mother, too. She always did what you wanted her to do. Help us to listen to you, and to do what you want with joy. We pray that we will see your Spirit in others as we celebrate your love and joy and we thank you for the gift of each other. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Scripture: (*Isaiah 12: 4-6*)

Student 1:

God, our Father, is wonderful. With Mary, we would like to tell the whole wide world how good God is!

Student 2:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 12: 4-6)

I want to tell the whole world wide world – God has been good to me.

I want to tell the whole wide world – God is wonderful.

I want to sing and to shout, because I am happy.

God has come to me, and God is great.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Here I am, Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Sing Alleluia!

Gospel: (*Luke 1: 46-55*)

And Mary said, I sing with praise the greatness of the Lord, and my heart finds joy in my God my Saviour. The Lord, who is mighty, has done great things for me. Holy is God's name. God has destroyed the power of people who are proud and honoured those who are poor and humble. God has given good food to hungry people and sent the rich away with nothing. God has come to help the people of Israel because of the promise made to Abraham and Sarah and their family forever.

This is the Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Student A:

Lord, teach us to be like Mary who served as you serve. Help us to love as Mary loved.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student B:

Lord, help us to listen to God's Word as Mary did and to cherish the Word in our hearts.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student C:

We pray for all mothers and fathers who work hard to provide for their families. Lord, bless
our parents for caring for us.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student D:

We pray for our mothers and grandmothers and for all those who help us grow and teach us
about you, especially our teachers. Lord, bless them for passing on the faith to us.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student E:

We pray for our school: our school friends, our teachers, our families and all who help our
school. We ask God to bless us all and keep us safe.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student F:

We pray for the sick people in our parish and for all our relatives who are ill. Lord, bless
them in their sickness.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student G:

We pray that people may accept each other, love one another and help bring peace to our
world.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Student H:

We pray for all those doing exams. Lord, keep them calm and guide them as they study.

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader:

Father in heaven, listen to our prayers which we make invoking the intercession of Mary. Through her prayers deepen our love for you. We ask this in his name, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Hymn to Mary:

As the hymn is being sung, children process up and place their flower in the vases provided.

Crowning Mary

The youngest child in the school, accompanied by the eldest child in the school, come forward with a garland of fresh flowers, if possible, and crown Mary.

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Response: Pray for us.

Leader: Holy Mary

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Holy Mother of God

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Mother of divine grace

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Mother most kind

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Queen of heaven

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Queen of all saints

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Queen of Angels

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Queen of peace

All: Pray for us.

We honour Mary by praying a decade of the rosary...

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father)

Leader:

Lord, we thank you for our time together to honour Mary. We pray that we will be faithful to her son, Jesus, as she was. Help us to listen to his holy Word always and live by it. Amen.

Blessing:

May God in his kindness bless you+
and strengthen the love that is in your hearts,
so that you will be close to him always.

All: Amen

Closing Hymn: Lourdes Hymn