


Let us pray...



Gather





# Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Music by Carey Landry

Gather



Friday 8th September 2023

## Our Lady's Birthday

Birthdays are celebrations of our uniqueness, gifts and talents. They are celebrations of who we are. We may resemble someone, but not two people in all creation are exactly the same. Today, we celebrate and give thanks for Mary, Our Mother. She was born to be the mother of Jesus; this was her special call and gift. Her birthday has been celebrated on this day since the 6th century.

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## Sign of the Cross

Mary loved Jesus and kept close to him even as he was dying on the Cross. We draw close to him as we begin “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

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Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

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All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

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Do Not Be Afraid To Take Mary Your  
Wife-Matthew 1:18-25

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The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home, For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:18-25

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At first, Joseph was confused, but upon receiving the words of the angel in a dream, he accepted this Child as his own and cared for Him with a father's love. Joseph knew, that the voice of God had spoken to him and he responded with generous faith.

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We may not have dreams through which God speaks to us in the form of an angel, but God does speak to us all day long.

The angels of God are constantly bringing us divine messages and inspiration. The question is whether or not we are listening.

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Listen in the silence of your heart, this day, and allow yourself to follow the glorious witness of Saint Joseph as he responded to our Lord's will with perfect faith and trust.

Lord, I long to hear Your sweet voice. I long to know all that You command of me and all that You inspire me to embrace in life. Give me the grace I need to follow every inspiration in life so that I may fulfill Your perfect and holy will. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

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## Bidding Prayers

Mary placed her trust in God even when she did not understand. We marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's love for us and pray with trust.

That all the followers of Jesus may receive the Word and  
live by it

*Response: Ave, ave, ave, Maria*

# Responding



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That the Churches may be united through the prayers of Mary and of those who love her.

*Response: Ave, ave, ave, Maria*

That all women may be treated with respect.

*Response: Ave, ave, ave, Maria*

That we would use our gifts and talents for others.

*Response: Ave, ave, ave, Maria*

That we would learn to be brothers and sisters to one another.

*Response: Ave, ave, ave, Maria.*

# Responding



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Hail Mary full of grace,  
the Lord is with you

May the God of mercy bless us.

May the God of peace comfort us.

May the God of love warm our hearts.

Amen.

Mission



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Mission

