

Mary
with
us...



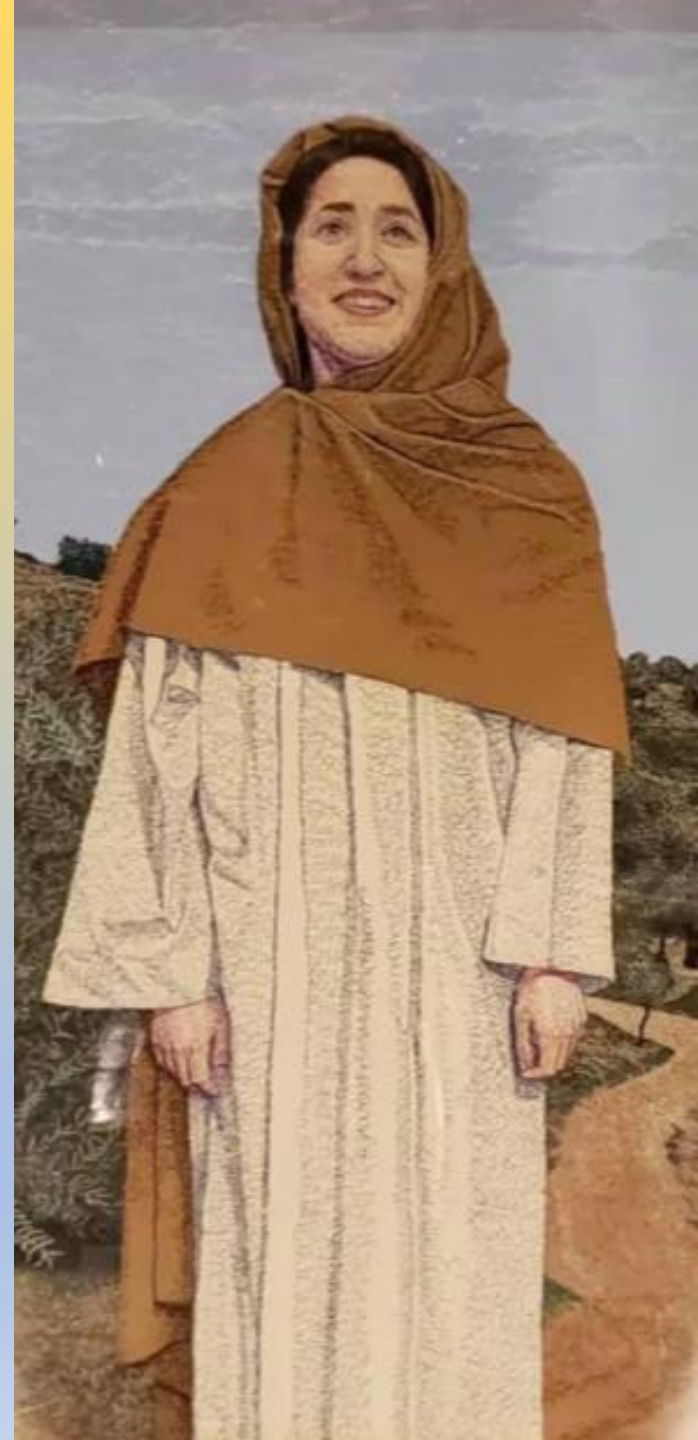
Hatā
Maria
me
tātou.

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa...

I recently saw this picture somewhere online... with the caption "It is helpful to remember that Mary looked more like an Afghan refugee than a blonde haired, blue eyed American. This was at the height of the awful and frightening scenes at Kabul airport and was a poignant reminder that Mary is with us -all of us- in the highs and lows of our lives, in the fun of happy times , when we are in danger, when we are worried and especially in our moments of darkest despair.

Mary transcends race and culture to be a mother to all of us...a mother who lovingly gathers us all under her mantle of protection and care, and who will speak with us and for us to Jesus, her son and our brother..

So let us pray together a Hail Mary as we begin our session today.





Hail Mary, **wāhine tapu, tēnā koe.**

Full of grace, **you are brimming with God's presence and action.**

The Lord is with you **and you speak with us to Jesus.**

Blessed are you among women **because of your goodness and "Yes!",**

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus, **our brother.**

Holy Mary mother of God **e te matua wāhine o te Ātua,**

Pray for us sinners, **be a voice for each of us with our God, who listens,**

Now and at the hour of our death, **today and in all the days of our lives,**

Amen, **so be it. Āmene, kia pērā hoki.**



POPE FRANCIS VIDEO : MARY MODELS A MOTHER'S STRENGTH

<https://youtu.be/oq46iwkQJp4>



The Wedding Feast at Cana, by Paolo Veronese



The Wedding Feast of Cana



- Mary understands us
- She knows Jesus better than anyone
- She wants to help
- She is easy to approach

Mary shows us how to live as children of God

Mary is the mother of God. She gives birth to Jesus. We too must allow Christ to dwell within. When we receive Jesus, He comes to dwell within *us too*. Our task is to allow that divine fire within to overwhelm us and to well up within us and teach us how to better receive and listen to Him.



Through grace, we share in Jesus' relationship with the Father.

Mary shows us what this means from a creaturely standpoint, if we think of moments from her life when she surrenders to the Holy Spirit and allows that reality to take hold of her heart. How can we follow her example? Through our own prayer and through her intercession.

Mary took all these things and pondered them in her heart." Meditating on Christ's life, we must take that mentality to heart and again follow Mary's example. We get so busy with the world, so consumed with the cares of life, that we don't always take time to reflect on Christ and His work in our life.



Pentecost

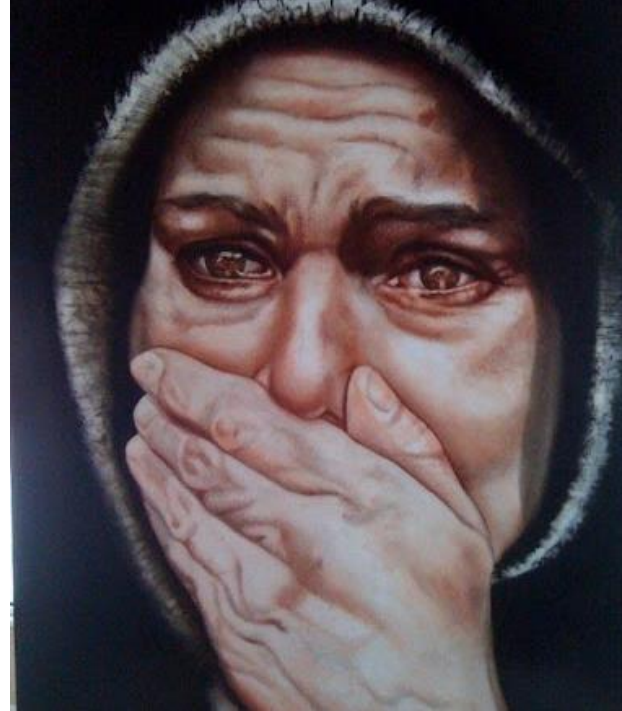


Mary said “Yes!”



Mary’s faith and example is a model for Missionaries throughout the world. She not only shows the need for prayer, as she consistently “*ponders*” what she is seeing and experiencing throughout the life of her beloved Son, Jesus, but also reaches outside herself and serves.

If she had not said from the very beginning, “*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word,*” her understanding and strength of acceptance of the truth may not have been made possible. Through faith Mary continued to hear and to ponder that word . . . thus in a sense Mary as Mother became the first “*disciple*” – the first Missionary of her Son. She became the first to whom he seemed to say, “*Follow me!*”



Mary felt normal human emotions



Pietà (Michelangelo)





Ave Regina Pacis

Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore

20th-century commissioned by Pope Benedict XV in commemoration of the end of the First World War.



Events of Mary's life



Time to share:



Who is Mary to you?

*What images or stories of Mary mean most
to you?*



Mary in various cultures...



*Some
Marian
apparitions*



Time to share:

How do you honour Mary in your home/whanau/ethnic communities?

Has this changed from when you were younger?



Talking about Mary

'Intercession' is one way of talking to God in prayer...
not the only way



- *Qstn: How does Mary 'intercede for us to God?*
- Conjures up the 'juridical' image of a courtroom.
- Wealthy monarchs 'represent' a less favoured person's case.
- The person needing favour is not able to approach the 'judge'.
- Intercession is not the only way to think about our relationship with Mary or God...now...and in the future.



Another approach....

God and the Saints are near us listening to those who worry, suffer, are ill or anxious.

- **God is not a judge or monarch**
- **In the First Testament - God listens like a mother to her child**
- **In the New Testament Jesus welcomed children, tax collectors, sinners**
- **God knows our heart's desire, our deepest hopes and yearning**

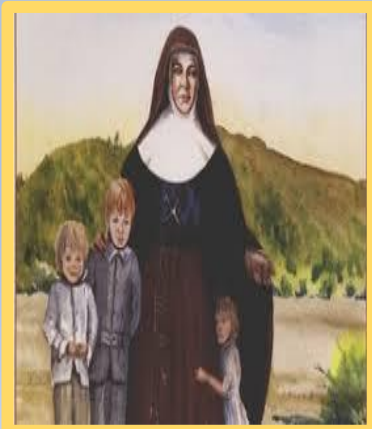


Living in God's presence....

We live in the presence of God, Mary and the Saints, who care for us
and



- **Mary MacKillop, Suzanne Aubert, Dame Whina Cooper, our own parents.**
- **...so active in kitchen, Church, school, prison, different seasons, on the beach.**
- **God is everywhere...'God, where can I go from your presence?' - *Psalmist***
- **Mary, Jesus, our tupuna do not see God as 'aloof' or 'distant'. No 'Thees' or 'Thous'**



Mary WITH us

When we ask Mary to PRAY WITH US we claim our own worthiness to approach God.



Marian Shrines are places of prayer, sharing of stories, weeping, conversation, song where we find someone who will understand and accept our anguish, joy, fear hopelessness

We ask Mary to pray WITH us rather than to pray FOR us...or on our behalf

We share Mary's courage, anxiety, illness, hope, trust, steadfastness

We learn who God by Mary's creative, original response to God



Removing the veil of misunderstanding about Mary



Pope Paul VI *Marialis Cultus* (To Honour Mary) 1975

- * Devotion to Mary a problem and on the decline
- * Approach to Mary was 'medieval' / linked strongly to the Counter-Reformation period in the Church.

In his book *The Universal Christ* (2019), Richard Rohr acknowledges that for centuries, Mary has been divinized out of sentimentality, and suggests that many Catholics have a poor theology of Mary but an excellent psychology:

Humans like, need and trust our mothers to give us gifts, to nurture us, and always to forgive us, which is what we want from God.

He points out that humans can identify with Mary more than they can with Jesus precisely because she was *not* God, but the archetype for our 'Yes' to God!

Marian Theology...talking about Mary today



- 1. Biblical** – rooted in Scripture and the historical context of Biblical stories
- 2. Liturgical** – in tune with liturgical seasons – Advent & Pentecost
- 3. Ecumenical** – in harmony / unity with other Churches / Faiths
- 4. Anthropological** – human approach to changing role of women in society & Church. Mary is not a passive or subservient role model.
- 5. Theological** – God at the centre – Mary points to Christ and to the Church

Time to share:



From your own experience and from what we have talked about today, what resources and/or creative ideas for activities do you have for teaching and celebrating Mary especially during the month of October?

THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on
the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on
all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things
for me and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts
of their hearts. He has brought down
the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

LUKE 1:46-55

