

St Peter and the Guardian Angels

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MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD – 1ST JANUARY 2023

On the first day of the year, we celebrate and honour **Mary, the Mother of God.**

This is how the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium), describes Mary:

“The Virgin Mary, who at the message of the angel received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world, is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer,” Lumen gentium reads. “Redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son and united to Him by a close and indissoluble tie, she is endowed with the high office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, by which account she is also the beloved daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

From Pope Francis’s Christmas message: (*Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi, Christmas 2022*)

Quoting Saint Leo, the Great, “the Lord’s birth is the birth of peace”, the Pope said Jesus is truly our peace, one the world cannot give.

“Jesus Christ is also the way of peace. By his incarnation, passion, death and resurrection, he has opened the way that leads from a world closed in on itself and oppressed by the dark shadows of enmity and war, to a world that is open and free to live in fraternity and peace. Let us follow that road!”

Concrete help to suffering: Looking at our world today, the Pope called on everyone to “see the faces of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters” who are experiencing darkness and cold this year, many far away from home due to ten months of war devastation.

“May the Lord inspire us to offer concrete gestures of solidarity to assist all those who are suffering, and may he enlighten the minds of those who have the power to silence the thunder of weapons and put an immediate end to this senseless war!”

Solidarity to all: As Jesus came into a world marked by indifference and hostility, the Pope said today also we see the same with how foreigners and the poor face rejection today. He called on everyone to find room in their hearts for displaced persons and refugees who “knock at our door in search of some comfort, warmth and food.” *“Let us not forget the marginalized, those living alone, the orphans and the elderly who risk being set aside, and prisoners, whom we regard solely for the mistakes they have made and not as our fellow men and women.”*

Donations for Christmas Flowers & Christmas Tree:

A BIG THANK YOU! To all those who donated anonymously as a Thanksgiving, and those who donated in memory of their beloved ones mentioned below; Maie Ware, Deborah Ware, Pat Rampling & Dick Rampling; Ernie & Charlotte Simmonds and Ernie Simmonds Junior; Sarah; and in memory of Jeannie Phatty, Agatha Alexandy, Gerald Beresford Mason, Rosemary Cole & Laura Colson.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland - 15th March 2023. £699.00 per person sharing: Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Special St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

World Youth Day, Lisbon (31st July to 7th August 2023) The Archdiocese of Southwark is taking a group of young people (aged 18-35) to World Youth Day in Lisbon from 31 July to 7 August 2023. Bookings are now open; the price is £1,295, which includes flights, 3* accommodation (shared room), transfers, WYD registration fee & meal vouchers. If you are between 18-35, you are welcome to book via <https://bit.ly/WYDSouthwark>. For further information, please email youth@rcaos.org.uk.

