

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Readings at mass - Isaiah 61:9-11, 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8, Luke 2:41-51

Our lady always found joy in the Lord – “my heart exults in God my saviour”, no matter what came her way, because of her humility she rejoiced in the Lord. She herself said in her Magnificat, “The Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of His servant”, she desired to be a servant and not a queen and indeed she was both. She aligned herself with God’s plans completely rather than wishing for anything different. We know so well that her pathways were not always full of rose petals. God himself sanctified Mary to be a utensil of special use at the moment of her conception and hence we believe her to be the immaculate conception. So much so that, she could say, It is not I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me, like St. Paul.

Christ literally lived in her, and after birth too she had that intimate union with Christ like no one else. Jesus himself reveals the holiness of His mother as he stated – “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit.” We pray in the Hail Mary – “blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus”. As she treasured Jesus the word, and pondered them in her heart, she became to know the mind of God so as to instruct Him (Cf. 1 Cor 2:16) notably at the wedding of Cana as He performs His first public miracle. In Luke chapter 2 we read that Jesus increased in wisdom as he remained obedient to His mother. Of course, Jesus did not need Mary to impart wisdom to Him as He himself is the Wisdom of God and His sacred heart that is gentle and humble knows all.

Though she did not always understand why something happened, she still yet stored up and pondered it all in her heart, and from that heart’s good treasure brought forth good – obedience and submission to God’s will.