

22 April

**THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
MOTHER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS**

Feast

On 22 April 1541, the Founding Fathers of the Society of Jesus made their solemn profession of vows in the newly instituted Order, during the celebration of Mass at Our Lady's altar in the basilica of St Paul Outside-the-Walls in Rome. It was a crowning event in the history of the Society of Jesus. Today's feast commemorates the birth of the vowed Society and its dedication to Mary as its Mother.

Entrance Antiphon

Jn 19: 26-27

When Jesus saw his mother
and the disciple standing there whom he loved,
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."
Then he said to the disciple,
"Behold, your mother."

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

Collect

**Almighty ever-living God,
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,
made the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,
our Mother as well,
grant, we pray, that with the assistance of her love,
the least Society of Jesus,
whose companions vow themselves to you in her presence,
may serve your majesty in obedience
and follow your Son perfectly.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

Prayer over the Offerings

**O God, receive the oblation
we offer to your divine Majesty,
and, as you united Mary to the cross and glory of your Son,
turn our eyes toward him whom we have pierced,
so that, seeking his Kingdom on earth,
we may come to eternal life with Mary, our Mother.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Preface: Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

V/. Lift up your hearts.

R/. We lift them up to the Lord.

V/. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/. It is right and just.

**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.**

**For it was your will to give the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of your Only Begotten Son,
as the Mother also of the Society of Jesus,
so that, sustained by her motherly care,
we whom you gathered into unity from every nation,
may serve your divine majesty in every region of the world,
may strengthen the Christian faithful in your love,
and may proclaim without rest your holy name to all people.**

**And so, with Angels and Archangels
and with the great multitude of the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Lk 11: 27-28

Blessed is the womb that bore Christ the Lord;
blessed, rather, are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Prayer after Communion

**Having received the Sacrament of salvation and of faith,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Society of Jesus,
we may become participants with her
in the fullness of your love and grace.
Through Christ our Lord.**

A formula of Solemn Blessing may be used.

**May the God of mercy,
who through his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
has redeemed the human race,
be pleased to enrich you with his blessing.**

R/. Amen.

**May God, through the prayers of Mary,
Virgin and Mother,
who gave the world the author of life,
protect you always.**

R/. Amen.

**May God be pleased to grant all of you,
as you celebrate with faith
the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
health of body and consolation of spirit.**

R/. Amen.

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.**

R/. Amen.