



Feast of Our Lady of Hope

July 9th



I know well the plans that I have for you, says the Lord;
plans for peace and not for affliction; plans to
give you a future full of hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

Devotion to Mary under the title Our Lady of Hope has been part of the Passionist heritage from its beginnings. It originated with St Paul of the Cross who had great devotion to Mary. The picture shown here is to be found in many Passionist houses. A copy of this picture, originally the possession of the Jesuits was given to Blessed John Henry Newman by the Passionists in Rome as a gift to take to England for Blessed Dominic Barberi.

Given the current state of our world with its conflicts, threats in so many areas and the climate justice issues that challenge us to a new way of living we need to be reminded that there is hope and that deep down we know where we find hope. Mary gives us an example of how to keep our hope alive in face of suffering.

At the foot of the cross Mary acquired a spirit of compassion generating within her a sensitivity, not only to the sufferings of her Son, but also to the problems of us all along life's pathways. This compassion endows her with a special kind of knowledge enabling her to see and appreciate what we are experiencing, and this in turn gives us hope that she will be of help to us on our journey.

The Second Vatican Council at the end of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium* says of the Mary that she "shines upon our world, until the day of the Lord shall come as a sign of sure hope and comfort for your people on their pilgrim way". (No 68)

Let us then join with all those who are waiting in hope and enter into a prayer of hope as we prepare for the Feast of our Lady on Hope on July 9th. Each day we are invited to be mindful of a different area of the congregation as we hope and pray for:

Peace with Justice,
Food Security and Clean Water for all
Shelter for the Asylum Seekers and Refugees
Care for our Common Home



Mother of Sure Hope,
in all our moments of
doubt and trial gain for us
the grace ever
to serve your Son as you did,
with deep faith,
calm courage, and with
a heart untroubled
by distrust in him or in
his everlasting love.

Amen

"When the world whispers give up,
hope whispers, try it one more time. " Anon

"Once you choose hope anything is possible. "
Christopher Reeve

"Hope is being able to see that there is
light despite all the darkness."
Desmond Tutu

1.

Pray for the Sisters in England where the Congregation had its beginnings



“Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, now cares with maternal affection and pain for this wounded world.” Laudato Si

Word of God: “Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother “You see this child : he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected-and a sword will pierce your own soul too-so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.”

Let us pray through Mary’s intercession for the needs of our world especially for women:

God of life and love, you gave us the example of Mary to guide us on our journey through life. Help us to be aware of the needs of our world and work for the common good wherever we find ourselves.

Today too, we pray for our Sisters in England where our Congregation came to birth and where Elizabeth Prout, shaped by the Passionist charism, shared hope with so many who were poor and on the margins. We give thanks for her daring and courage and ask for her spirit to be ours as we continue to be mindful of all who are cast aside in our world today.



2.

Pray for the Sisters in Ireland



“Just as her pierced heart mourned the death of Jesus, so now she grieves for the sufferings of the crucified poor and for the creatures of the world laid waste by human power.” Laudato Si

Word of God: “There was a prophetess also, Anna.....she was well on in years before becoming a widow.....She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.”

Let us pray for all who are powerless or diminished that they will always know their own dignity.

Today we pray for our Sisters in Ireland that they will be a sign of hope for all those whom they encounter as they give and receive love and compassion. We give thanks for all the people who have supported the Sisters in their ministries and where the connections have been mutually enriching.



3.

Pray for the Sisters in Chile

“She is the Woman, “clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” Laudato Si

Word of God:

“At that time Mary went as quickly as she could to a town in the hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeting Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leapt in her womb.”

Lk 1: 39-41

Mary goes to share her joy with her elderly cousin Elizabeth showing how God’s purposes for the two women were intertwined. We ask God to help us to understand how connected we are in the mission of sharing the Good News wherever we are living.

We ask God to be with the Sisters in Chile as they continue to empower others to share the good news. May the seeds that have been planted over a century bear fruit in new and unexpected ways.



4.

Pray for the Sisters in North America and
Jamaica



“Carried up into heaven, she is the Mother and Queen of all creation. In her glorified body, together with the Risen Christ, part of creation has reached the fullness of its beauty.” Laudato Si

**Word of God: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit exults in God my saviour! He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness, and from now on all generations will call me blessed.”
Lk 1: 46-48**

Today we pray for the Sisters in the United States and Jamaica. We pray that they and all who collaborate with them will find joy in serving those to whom they are called to minister.

May they rejoice in all the life that has grown in almost of century of service by the Sisters and give them hope for this new phase of their journey in service and love.



5.

Pray for the Sisters in Argentina

**“As Sisters of the Cross and Passion we are encouraged to honour Mary, who stands as “model for our apostolic life”.
Norm 46 Covenant of the Passion**



Word of God: “Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister Mary, who was the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala, When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that moment the disciple took her into his own home.”

Jn 19: 25-27

We pray for the mission of the Sisters in Argentina among the poor and the marginalised. May they be guided in the spirit of Elizabeth Prout to continue their outreach to those in need.

We give thanks for the new life that has come through the presence of the Sisters and we pray that through the intercession of Mary, mother of hope they will continue to accompany those who suffer.



6.

Pray for the Sisters in Botswana

“Completely transfigured, she now lives with Jesus, and all creatures sing of her fairness.” Laudato Si



Word of God: “Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High.”

Lk 1: 30

Mary believed in the promise made to her by the Lord, though she did not fully understand how it would come to be. We pray that we will be open to surprise and in faith see the possibilities that lie ahead of us in the Botswana.

We ask God to bless the mission of the Sisters in Botswana as they bring hope and joy to those around them especially the children who are without the necessities of life. May the new life that is growing in Botswana be blessed with abundance. We give thanks for Pulane and ask a special blessing on her and all who are searching.



7.

Pray for the Sisters in Peru

“If we want the consolation of our mother and if we want to console her in her sorrow, then we must comfort all her children. We must give birth with Mary and her Son to courage, to heartfelt hope in one another.”



‘Mary, shadow of grace,’ M McKenna

Word of God:

“They all gave themselves to constant prayer with one mind, together with some women and Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.”

Acts 1: 14

We pray for the Sisters in mission in Peru and we give thanks for their ministry among the poor. May their involvement be a source of enrichment and may their ministry be fruitful and grow in ways they have never dreamed possible.

We ask that they will recognise the promise of new life as they accompany those in need and we rejoice with them at all that has grown from the seeds planted since the arrival of the Sisters almost 40 years ago.



8.

Pray for the Sisters in Australia



“She treasures the entire life of Jesus in her heart and now understands the meaning of all things.” Laudato Si

Word of God:

“His parents were very surprised when they saw him, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried while searching for you.”

Today we pray for the Sisters in Australia. We recall that during the lifetime of the Congregation we have been invited to Australia at intervals during our history but finally in 2007 a small foundation was made in Melbourne.



We pray that the new life that is growing may continue to be nourished through the life and ministry of the Sisters and especially we pray for Karen, from neighbouring New Zealand, as she continues to journey towards full membership of the Congregation.



Pray for the Sisters in Vietnam

**“We can ask her to enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom.”
Laudato Si**

Word of God: “When all the wine provided for the celebration had been served and they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” Jesus replied, “Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not yet come.” And his mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Jn: 2: 3-5

We give thanks for the daring and courage of our Sisters in going to Vietnam to accompany the women there who are interested in membership of our Congregation.

We pray for wisdom for all who are involved in this new and challenging call to respond within an unknown culture. May the charism of Elizabeth Prout and the early Sisters take root and grow.



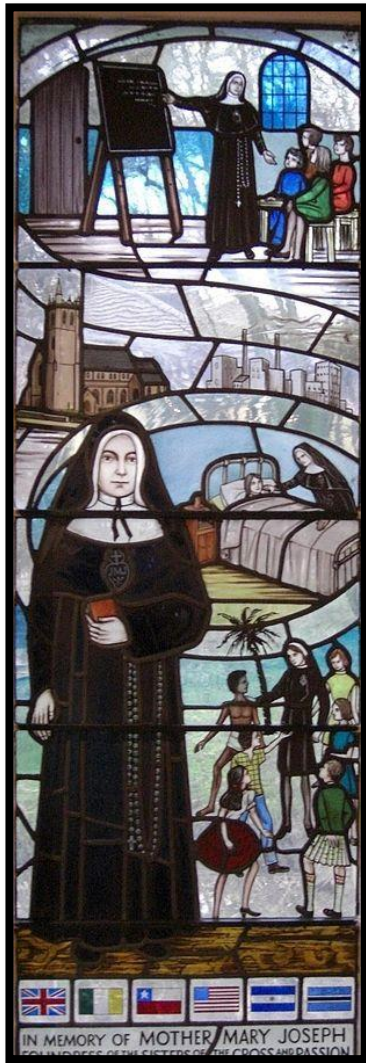
We remember all those people who have ministered in countries and places where we are no longer present. We pray for all who have been touched by the care, compassion and love of our Sisters in those places where we no longer have a physical presence. We ask God to bless them and give them the gifts they need to embrace the future with hope.



*Bulgaria, Sweden, Scotland, Wales, Lunca de Sus, Papua New Guinea,
Romania, Bosnia & Hercegovina*

And many other locations within countries where we are still present

**“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone but
if it dies it bears much fruit. “ Jn 12: 24**



O God, source of all life, your servant
Elizabeth Prout,
responded to your call by bringing together
a new family to welcome the poor and the
abandoned,
and to keep alive the memory of your
love for all your children,
shown to us in the Passion of Jesus, your Son.
Give us the courage to follow her example
of living faith, and untiring love.
Through her intercession grant us
the favour for which we pray.
Amen