

Service Schedule

FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

- 7:30 am Lauds
11:00 am Conventual Mass
12:00 pm Mass (Holy Sacrament Chapel)
1:00 pm Salve and Virolai
6:15 pm Rosary
6:45 pm Vespers

Confession

10:40 - 11:40 am / 12:00 - 1:00 pm

SATURDAYS

- 7:30 am Lauds
11:00 am Conventual Mass
12:00 pm Mass (Holy Sacrament chapel)
1:00 pm Salve and Virolai (*no Boys' choir*)
6:15 pm Rosary
6:45 pm Vespers
7:30 pm Mass

Confession

10:00 - 11:40 am - 12:00 - 1:00 pm
7:30 - 8:00 pm

SUNDAYS AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

- 7:30 am Lauds
9:30 am Mass
11:00 am Conventual Mass
12:00 pm Salve and Virolai
1:00 pm Mass
6:15 pm Rosary
6:45 pm Vespers
7:30 pm Mass

Confession

9:15 - 11:40 am / 12:00 - 1:00 pm
5:00 - 6:00 pm / 7:30 - 8:00 pm

VIGILS

- 11th April 10:00 pm - Easter
26th April 9:00 pm - Saint Mary
30th May 9:30 pm - Pentecost (*no mass*)
14th August 9:30 pm - Assumption (*no mass*)
7th September 9:30 pm - Nativity (*no mass*)
24th December 10:30 pm - Christmas
31st December 10:30 pm - for Peace

SANCTUARY OF MONTSERRAT

Pastoral Coordination Centre

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2020



Partial view of the work Our Lady of Montserrat between Saint George and Saint Eulalia, by Enric Morera. Museum of Montserrat

YOU ARE ON MOUNT MONTSERRAT.
THE MONKS WHO LIVE IN THIS
MONASTERY AND SANCTUARY DEVOTED TO
THE OUR LADY WELCOME YOU WITH OUR
PRAYER, WHICH REACHES OUT TO YOU
LIKE A WARM EMBRACE TO TOUCH YOUR
VERY HEART.

You are blessed, Virgin Mary!!



Ant. *Moderat* *mf* Sou fe - liç, Ver - ge Ma - ri - a, vós que heu a - co - llit la Pa - rau - la que és llum per al món. O.P.

Blessed, the word with which the Book of Psalms begins, is, we might say, the main theme of this book of poems, that is the main pillar of the monks' prayer and, therefore, of prayer at Montserrat. *Blessed* is also the first word in each of the Beatitudes, given by Jesus to his followers in the Sermon on the Mount.

Among the blessed who have followed the Lord's path, among all those who wanted, want, and will want to see joyful days, the first of all, shining out among them, is Saint Mary, who heard from her cousin Elizabeth the blessing that condenses all them into one: *Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!* Mary is the woman who has received from God all the joys in the Bible, lived them all in plenitude. She is happy, because she has believed, and the Almighty has worked wonders in her. Despite her joy, she has also seen difficulties, moments of suffering, but these could not vanquish her.

And Mary's joy calls on all Christians to follow her path, to find the same blessedness that has illuminated her life so that, believing as she did, all shadows will also be dispelled from our hearts.

Are we happy because we have believed? That is, perhaps, a question that we do not often ask ourselves, and yet this question should be at the very heart of our Christian lives. Belief in God helps in times of trouble, no doubt. However, much more

than this, it is the source of true, everlasting joy. Joy that – whether or not we are content with our situation at any given moment in time – feeds and shapes our lives. Joy that teaches us the best and surest way to preach Christ's Gospel.

Of all the blessings we can find in the Bible, and which filled Saint Mary's life with joy, we may take three from Psalms that can guide us in some way on our pilgrimage to Montserrat.

1. *Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven* (Psalms, 32:1): God, fore-seeing the virtue of the redemption obtained to us by Jesus Christ, preserved the Holy Virgin from the original sin. She always repaid this gift of the grace of God. We, who have also been once and for all released from the sin by our Baptism, don't always answer properly to this gift of God, and we can often err, blurring our likeness to God. But this should not discourage us for, like Mary Immaculate, we have been absolved of our faults and, if only we are open to God's love. He will surely come down to care for us.

2. *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him!* (Psalms, 34:9): The Scripture is very clear when talking about the trust between mankind and God. This is complete trust, so complete that even our senses tell us how good the Lord is. Mary felt this in her very body, and took refuge in God in all the circumstances in her life, even the darkest moments. Like her, we must also seek refuge in God always, for He is the sole spring of true peace and happiness.

3. *Happy is one who cares for the poor* (Psalms, 41:2): We have been freed from sin, we have known God's love for us and we have believed it, and this must not become something sterile. Like Mary, who did not hesitate to help her cousin Elizabeth, who had remained standing beside the Cross of Christ, it is the love for our neighbour that will enable us to fulfil the blessing that we receive from God, which cannot be complete unless given with love.

Mary is blessed since she, like no other, has known God, when she believed in what the Lord told her, and partook of his Word, which is the light of the world. We are also called on to be happy, and our whole life is but a path in which to grow our blessedness, our faith in God Almighty, who is the spring of all happiness.