



ENTRUSTING AUSTRALIA TO *Mary Help of Christians*

24 / 25 MAY 2020

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference announced that our Nation would be entrusted to Our Lady on her Feast day. On Sunday 24 May Bishop Anthony Randazzo, will also entrust our Diocese of Broken Bay to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title Our Lady Help of Christians.

Entrustment is an invocation of the intercession of Our Lady upon a nation, diocese, group, family or individual.

We invite you to engage with this resource to entrust your families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so that she may intercede for your family and cover you all with her protective mantle during this time of pandemic and beyond.



You can join Bishop Anthony as he prays for the entrustment of our Diocese during Livestreamed Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral 8.30am Sunday 24 May and at 7am on Monday 25 May. Join Mass at <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/hornsby>

Marian Theology

Veneration and adoration of Mary goes back to the very beginning of the Church and she continues to hold a special place in the hearts of many. We come to her with great reverence, to honour her as the Mother of God.

We as the faithful, do not worship Mary but invoke her to intercede on our behalf, to her Son, Jesus. We consider her as a true witness of what it is to follow and trust God, understanding that she has a unique relationship with God, is full of grace and shares in the genetic makeup of Christ!

Throughout history during times of uncertainty and difficulty, Mary continually intercedes for her children, and protects us as the loving, compassionate mother that she is.

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians

Pope Pius VII established the feast in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in 1815. After being imprisoned by Napoleon Bonaparte, he established the feast in thanksgiving for his release. Australia, a new colony at that time, had no Catholic priests and therefore no Mass available. The faithful recited and relied on the Rosary to sustain the Catholic community. In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness.



Prayer to Mary Help of Christians

Patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts
Our love of Mary Help of Christians.
Through her prayers and under her protection,
May the light of Christ shine over our land.
May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.
Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Bless especially the men and women
Of the Australian Defence Force and their families.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

Create a Sacred Space

As you entrust your family to Our Lady Help of Christians consider creating a sacred prayer space dedicated to Mary, a place you can return to with your family to ask for her intercession through prayer, at this time.

1. Find a special place in your home to create a prayer space.
2. Gather sacramentals or sacred objects to place in your sacred space; bible, holy water, candle.
3. Include in this space a statue or picture of Our Lady, Mother Mary.
4. Consider including some flowers to brighten your sacred space. You may choose to use lilies or roses, which are associated with Mary or even rosemary from your garden.



Entrusting our Family to Mary Help of Christians

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender mother of all humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our family (name the members of your family here);

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick the disabled and the elderly;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We commit to you, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who around us who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis;

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

Reign over our family, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

Response: Mary Help of Christians, we entrust our family to you.

All: Amen.



Additional Resources

Entrustment to Mary Help of Christians

Read The Bishops' **Word of Encouragement** to the Catholic people of Australia and download the **Prayer** at <https://catholic.org.au/entrustment>

Vatican News Release:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-05/bishops-to-entrust-australia-to-mary-help-of-christians.html>

Additional Resources

How to pray the Rosary:

<https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/>

Reflection on Our Lady Help of Christians – St Columbans Mission Society:

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/articles/reflections/2018/reflection-our-lady-help-of-christians-patron-of-australia>

Our Lady Help of Christians – Catholic Weekly:

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/24-may-our-lady-help-of-christians/>

Mary Help of Christians- Why Pope Leo XI granted canonical Auxilium Christianorum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8tQ30w9Sh4>

What you should know about the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

<https://www.getfed.com/devotion-immaculate-heart-mary-6227/>

Biblical Symbolism of the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

<https://buildingcatholicculture.com/the-biblical-symbolism-of-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/>

Mary Pages:

<https://www.marypages.com/prayers-to-the-blessed-virgin-mary.html>

Children's Resources

Immaculate Heart of Mary Colouring Page:

<http://www.thecatholickid.com/immaculate-heart-of-mary-coloring-page/>

May Crowning Activities – Catholic Icing:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/may-crowning-ideas-for-home/>

Plant a Mary Garden – Catholic News Agency:

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/cw/post.php?id=502>