

PRINCIPLES & GUIDELINES FOR MARIAN DEVOTIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF SANDHURST.

MARIAN PRINCIPLES.

1. “*All generations will call me blessed*”. (Luke 1:48, MC 56) This special devotion differs essentially from adoration which is only for persons of the Trinity. The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary...express this devotion to the Virgin Mary. (MC 42; SC 103) CCC 971.
2. “*For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all*” (1 Tim. 2:5-6) (LG 60)
3. Vatican II brings us to a new awareness of Mary’s position within the Church, the liturgy reflects the dimension of her relationship to Christ and her role in salvation history. (Sr. Marcia Vinje/ Fr. Johann Roten 1996)
4. That all our devotions to Mary respect the following five features of good Marian Theology as outlined by Paul VI in *Marialis Cultus (To Honour Mary)*:
 - (a) **Biblical:** Marian theology should be rooted in the testimony of Scripture.
 - (b) **Liturgical:** It should be in tune with the liturgical seasons. He named especially Advent, where Mary joins the Church in expecting the birth of the Messiah, and then Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit to the Church.
 - (c) **Ecumenical:** It would be in harmony with the agreements we have reached with fellow Christian Churches. Rather than being a dividing point between Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism, it would be a unifying point.
 - (d) **Anthropological:** By this term, Paul VI meant that it would be aware of the changing role of women in society. As women take leadership in various aspects of society, we cannot expect women or men to appreciate a Mary who is presented as a passive and subservient woman.
 - (e) **Theological:** This means it would have God at the centre --- with Mary placed in relation to Christ and to the Church. (From *In Search of the Real Mary* by Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, 2001, St. Anthony Messenger)

GUIDELINES.

1. That all Marian devotions reflect on Mary in relationship to Christ.
2. That all Marian devotions be Scripture based.
3. That when a Solemnity relating to Mary falls on a Sunday, eg Assumption, the Presentation in the Temple, that the Marian festival be held on that day in the particular year.
4. That Marian themes do not overtake Sunday themes.
5. That the great Scriptural prayers of Mary are central eg. The Magnificat, the Hail Mary.

6. That the shrine decorated to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Marian Festival (or indeed any other time of the year) not out do in ostentation, flowers, candles the main altar so as not to remove the focus from the fruit of Mary's womb to Mary herself.
7. That the Icon/Statue to Mary have one vase of flowers before it or one on each side AND that there are more or a bigger display of flowers in front of or near the main altar so as not to overshadow the central focal point and that any icon/statue to Jesus is suitable venerated with flowers.
8. That if candles are to be used in front of the Marian statue/icon then they are not to be greater than the number used at Mass and preferably less.
9. That Marian Hymns/songs have sound theological understanding for example the new words by Brian Foley for the Lourdes Hymn "Immaculate Mary, we praise God in you" are much better than the older "The Bells of the Angelus" version. A list of suitable Marian music as appended.

FURTHER POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

1. That in the Diocese of Sandhurst whose patroness is Mary Mother of Good Counsel that we primarily venerate her Icon instead of any other statue of Mary. Historically this is important too!
2. That the Rosary pilgrim statue is only "farewelled" from the Cathedral church on one occasion each year and that it is most appropriate that that occasion be at the end of the annual Marian Festival.

FORMAT FOR DEVOTIONS.

- **Gather** with the singing of a version of *The Magnificat*. At this point here is a simple procession of clergy and servers on to the Sanctuary. The candles will already be lit on the main altar and the statue/icon of Mary will already be in place.
- **Greeting**
- **Opening Prayer/Collect**
- **Scripture reading**
- **Sung response---hymn or responsorial psalm**
- **Scripture**
- **Silence**
- **Homily**
- **Optional Prayer of the Faithful**
- **Rosary---hopefully in procession around the inside and outside of the cathedral/church stopping at 5 stations for some of the 20 decades with the Ave, Ave... response of the Lourdes Hymn sung in between each decade and Litany of Loreto or another modern one.**
- **Return to the main altar area for Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament finishing with the Te Deum (CWB 710)**

- **The pilgrim statue can then be quietly sent out with a suitable blessing and sprinkling with Holy Water. It does not need to be processed shoulder high!**

WHAT IS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE/DESIRABLE AT PUBLIC DEVOTIONS.

- Procession of Fatima Statue with seers and flower petals strewn by “dressed up actors”.
- An Altar of Repose style shrine
- Consecration of the World to Mary. By all means consecrate the world to Jesus but...
- This is not an appropriate occasion for presentation and enrolment in the Brown Scapular etc.

Dated June 20, 2004.

APPENDIX 1: SOME SUITABLE MARIAN MUSIC.

The music is edifying and fitting and is theologically sound. It is not appropriate to be singing such songs as *Mother Dear, I could Weep for Mirth, On this Day O Beautiful Mother or Bring Flowers of the Fairest.*

CWB = Catholic Worship Book

GA = Gather Australia

RS = Ritual Song

AOV = As One Voice

- N.B. that if you have a choir or schola present then you will have more variety at your disposal especially in the use of responsorial psalmody.
- If you can't find your favourite hymn here it may be an oversight **OR IT MAY BE TIME** to look at it critically and learn something new.

Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

Antiphon: Forever my will my soul proclaim CWB 604 (Robert Kreutz)

Antiphon: My soul rejoices in My God CWB 179 (Boschetti/Murray)

Antiphon: The Almighty has done great things for me CWB 605 (Kreutz)

Antiphon: The lord has done marvels for me CWB 606, GA 15 (Gelineau)

Magnificat GA 545 (Taize)

Magnificat GA 250 (Owen Alstott)

My soul gives glory to the Lord (Joncas) CWB 635, easy to learn!

Now sing my soul, 'How great the Lord' (Jerusalem) CWB 754, fantastic version, a must learn!

Tell out, my soul GA 550 strong tune, worth learning.

The Magnificat AOV 1 No. 52 (Peter Kearney)

All who claim the faith of Jesus RS 897
At the cross her station keeping GA 332
Ave Maria RS 896 (Dan Kantor) nice harmony part
Ave Maria RS 898 (plain chant) good way of preserving our tradition

Be it done unto me AOV 1 No. 119 (Bob Hurd)
Gentle Virgin Mother CWB 683
Hail blessed Virgin, full of grace CWB 699
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman GA 544 (not the finest musically)
Hail, Queen of heaven, the ocean star CWB 702, GA 547 Use these words as older versions of verse 2 are theologically incorrect!
Help of Christians , guard this land CWB 711

Immaculate Mary, we praise God in you CWB 723, GA 549
I sing a Maid RS 899
I Say "Yes," Lord GA 445
Joy to you, O Virgin Mary CWB 729 (Deiss) fantastic words!
Lady Mary AOV 1 No. 117 (Sandra Sears)
Mary, crowned in living light CWB 742 (words: Stanbrook Abbey)
Mary immaculate, star of the morning CWB 744
Mother of all (Fatima Hymn) from old Pius X Hymnal ed. Percy Jones

No wind at the window RS 876 (words: John Bell)
O Mary of Graces CWB 769 (Percy Jones) well worth learning.
Regina caeoli laetare CWB 797 (Plain chant) GA 350 with English translation "O Queen of heaven" good way of keeping our tradition
Salve Regina CWB 801 (Plain chant) good way of keeping our tradition
Salve Regina RS 894 & GA 546 English & Latin words (Hail Queen of Heaven, hail, our Mother compassionate)

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came CWB 815 (Old Basque carol)
There is nothing told GA 548 (Chris Willcock) a fine new Marian hymn
When the Son of God was dying GA 510 (words by John Bell)

1Sam 2: My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour CWB 477
Judith 13: 18-20 You are the highest honour of our race CWB 458
Psalm 39: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will CWB 352, v. 2-5
Psalm 44: The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold CWB 466
Psalm 68: You have made a home for the poor GA 46

Psalm 97: Sing a new song to the Lord CWB 472
Psalm 102: My soul give thanks to the Lord CWB 459
Psalm 112 (113): May the name of the Lord be blessed GA 64, CWB 457
Psalm 123: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord GA 73
Psalm 138: Lord, I thank you GA 80

Also settings of these Psalms/Canticles:

Psalms 62 (63): O God, you are my God, for you I long

Psalms 121 (122): I rejoiced when I heard them say

Psalms 126 (127): If the Lord does not build the house

Psalms 149: Sing a new song to the Lord

Sirach 14: 20-27 Happy is the one who meditates on wisdom

Daniel 3: 57 – 88, 56: Let every creature praise the Lord

Canticle of Zechariah

New Testament Canticle: Ephesians 1 :3-10 Blessed be the God and Father

APPENDIX 2: SOME SUITABLE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 3: 9-15. 20 I will put enmity between your offspring and her offspring

Proverbs 31: 10-13. 19-20. 30.31 It is the wise woman whom the Lord will praise

Sirach 4: 11-18 Wisdom instructs her children

Isaiah 9: 1-3, 5-6 A wonder-Counsellor is given to us

Luke 1: 26-38 The Annunciation

Luke 1: 39-56 The Visitation

Luke 2: 22-40 The Presentation

Luke 8: 19-21 My mother and my brothers are those...

John 2: 1-11 Wedding feast at Cana

John 19: 25-27 Woman this is your son. This is your mother

Acts 1:12-14, 2: 1-4 disciples joining in prayer with Mary

Romans 11: 33-36 How deep are the riches

Apocalypse 11:19, 12: 1-6. 10 I saw a woman clothed in the sun

Apocalypse 21: 1-5 I saw the new Jerusalem...

Also look under the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lectionary Vol. 2 pp. 1357-1385