

Rededication of England as the Dowry of Our Lady

Sunday 29 March 2020



Opening Hymn

1. Mary of Walsingham, Mother of Jesus,
pray for thy Dowry, the land that we love:
England has need of thy powerful protection,
pour on thy children thy gifts from above.
2. Thou who didst summon thy servant Richeldis,
Bidding her build to thine honour a Shrine.
Help us to follow in thy Blessed footsteps,
Framing our lives on thy pattern divine.
3. Countless the pilgrims whose footsteps have
echoed
down through the years along Walsingham's
way;
Countless the prayers that thy children have
offered;
Mary of Walsingham, hear us, we pray.
4. Many long years saw thine image neglected;
Only a few sought the help of thy prayers,
Walsingham Shrine now again in its beauty;
Welcomes each pilgrim who thither repairs.
5. So shall we praise thee with ceaseless
thanksgiving.
So shall we sing of thy love and thy power,
So shall we feel thy protection and comfort;
All through our lives and in death's solemn
hour.
6. Pray for us then, blessed Mary, our Mother.
Pray for thy children who kneel in thy Shrine.
Pray that thy Son upon England thy Dowry,
Pour down His favours and blessings divine.

Collect

Lord God, in the mystery of the Incarnation, Mary conceived your Son in her heart before she conceived him in her womb. As we, your pilgrim people, rejoice in her patronage, grant that we also may welcome him into our hearts, and so, like her, be made a holy house fit for his eternal dwelling. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading

John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

The Fifth Glorious Mystery

The Coronation of Our Lady

Act of Entrustment of England to Mary

O Blessed Virgin Mary, we your faithful people assembled here offer you this country in which we live. Once it was yours, all its children were your children and you were honoured throughout England as its Protectress and its Queen. Again do we consecrate it as your Dowry, and entrust it to your maternal care.

To you we entrust the Church, which invokes you as Mother. On earth you preceded her in the pilgrimage of faith. Comfort her in her difficulties and trials. Make her always the sign and instrument of intimate union with God and of the unity of the whole human race. To you, Mother of the human family, and of the nations, we confidently entrust the whole of humanity with its hopes and fears. Let it not lack the light of true wisdom. Guide it to seek freedom and justice for all. Direct its steps in the ways of peace. Enable all to meet Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Pray, O Holy Mother of God, for the conversion of heart of the people of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the troubled, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed. Queen of Peace, pray for us and give to the world the peace for which all peoples are longing, peace in the truth, justice and charity of Christ. Give peace to the nations and to the souls of all, that in peace, the Kingdom of God may prevail.

May your prayers bring back this country to the fullness of its ancient faith. May your intercession lead us to a closer union with your divine Son. We offer you all the people of this land, especially those who know you so little or not at all. May all in our country know Christ, the light of the world and its only Saviour.

May we who follow your Son, be fruitful in the good work of building a culture of life in our world, where all human life is treasured and the gift of God's creation is respected and cared for, so that all may share the fruits of God's generous love.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

The Prayer for England

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our most gentle Queen and Mother; look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry, and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world; and he has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our separated brethren, that together with us in the one true fold, they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works, we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home. Amen.

Closing Hymn

1. Hail, Queen of Heaven, the ocean star,
Guide of the wanderer here below;
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care:
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

2. O gentle, chaste and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers through thee;
Remind thy Son that He has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

3. Sojourners in this vale of tears,
To thee, blest advocate, we cry;
Pity our sorrows, calm our fears,
And soothe with hope our misery.
Refuge in grief, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the mourner, pray for me.

4. And while to Him who reigns above:
In Godhead One, in Persons Three,
The source of life, of grace, of love,
Homage we pay on bended knee;
Do thou, bright Queen, Star of the Sea,
Pray for thy children, pray for me.

