



The Holy Face of Jesus

Newsletter/Video log



Issue 12 December 17th, 2024

*Our Advent desire to see God's Face &
the Feast of the Expectation*

St. Anselm bishop of Canterbury and doctor of the Church, in the 11th century, wrote about the desire of every human soul created in the image and likeness of God; the desire to see God's Face. It is a beautiful reflection for Advent!

From the *"Prosologian"* — the words of St. Anselm, Bishop:

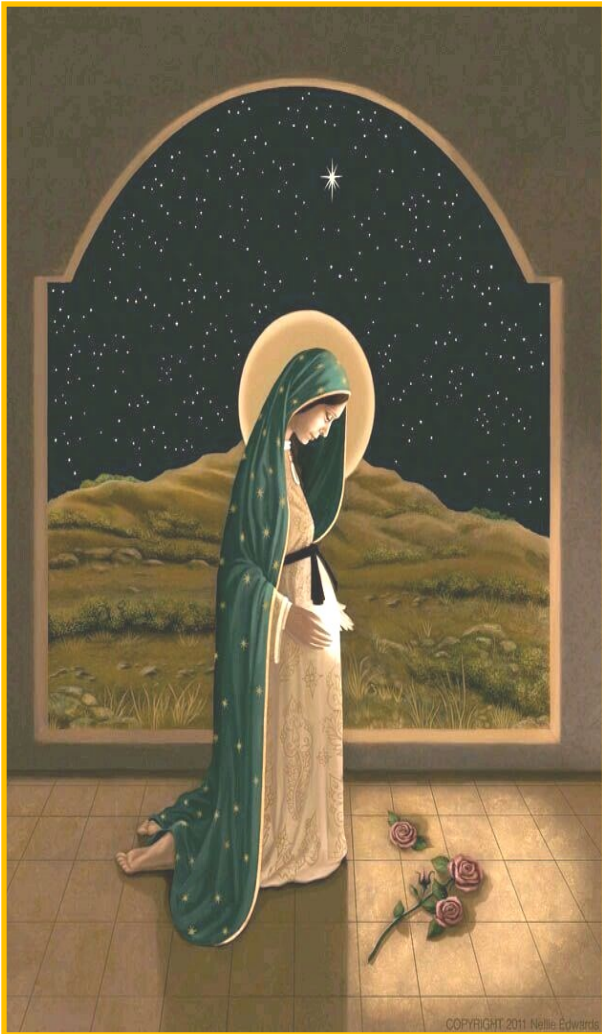
"Insignificant man, escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him. Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, Lord, I desire.



Lord, my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you. Lord, if you are not here where shall I look for you in your absence? Yet if you are everywhere, why do I not see you when you are present? But surely you dwell in "light inaccessible." And where is light inaccessible? How shall I approach light inaccessible? Or who will lead me and bring me into it that I may see you there? And then, by what signs and under what forms shall I seek you? I have never seen you, Lord my God; I do not know your face.

Lord most high, what shall this exile do, so far from you? What shall your servant do, tormented by love of you and cast so far from your face? He yearns to see you, and your face is too far from him. He desires to approach you, and your dwelling is unapproachable. He longs to find you, and does not know your dwelling place. He strives to look for you, and does not know your face.

Lord, you are my God and you are my Lord, and I have never seen you. You have made me and remade me, and you have given me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you. I was made in order to see you, and I have not yet done that for which I was made. Lord, how long will it be? How long, Lord, will you forget us? How long will you turn your face away from us? When will you look upon us and hear us? When will you enlighten our eyes and show us your face? When will you give yourself back to us?



Look upon us, Lord, hear us and enlighten us, show us your very self. Restore yourself to us that may go well with us whose life is so evil without you. Take pity on our efforts and our striving toward you, for we have no strength apart from you.

Teach me to see you, and when I seek you you show yourself to me, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, nor can I find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in desiring you and desire you in seeking you, find you in loving you and love you in finding you. **Amen.**

During Advent the Church celebrates the same longing to see God's Face, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a special Triduum (three days of prayer beginning on December 15) and a Feast (on December 18th)—It is called

The Feast of the Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Longing to See His Face.

The Feast has its origin in the year 656 in Spain and spread throughout the Middle Ages. Because of an ancient law of the Church which prohibited the celebration of feasts during Lent, the Church in Spain transferred the feast of the Annunciation from March 25th to the season of Advent when the Tenth Council of Toledo in 656 assigned the feast to the 18th of December. **It was and still may be kept as a solemn octave, for eight days leading to Christmas.** When the ancient laws

regarding feasts were changed, the Annunciation was actually celebrated twice, on March 25th and December 18th! In some places in Spain it is still celebrated on both days.

On the days leading up to Christmas we therefore are invited to contemplate, together with Mary, the Divine Child within her womb, who is Our Savior. We too, through sanctifying grace, bear the supernatural image of God within us. Like Mary, we desire to become a peaceful sanctuary for the living God. We are called to be attentive, in prayer, to the faint stirrings of His presence in our hearts, which will fill us with a deep longing to see His Face.

Prayer: *“Mary, your life with Jesus was one of the purest, most fervent, most perfect emotions of longing and most eager expectation of the Birth of the Divine Child! How great must have been that longing! You were longing to see the Face of God and to be happy in the vision. You were soon really to see the Face of God, the created image of divine perfection, the sight of which rejoices heaven and earth, from which all being derive life and joy; the Face whose features enraptured God from all eternity, the Face for which all ages expectantly yearned. You were to see this Face unveiled, in all the beauty and grace as the face of your own child. Most just indeed it is, O Holy Mother of God, that we should unite in that ardent desire which you had to see Him, who had been concealed for nine months in your chaste womb; to know the features of this Son of the heavenly Father, who is also your own; to come to that blissful hour of His birth, which will give glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good will. Yes, dear Mother, the time is fast approaching, though not fast enough to satisfy your desires and ours. Make us re-double our attention to the great mystery; complete our preparation by your powerful prayers for us, so that when the solemn hour has come, our Jesus may find no obstacle to His entrance into our hearts. **Amen.**”*


Call to Action: HLI Ireland aims to get the Holy Face of Jesus into every parish internationally.

Remember, Jesus told Sr Marie Pierre in Tours in the mid 19th century, that He wanted the Holy Face prayers in EVERY TOWN, where they are “a weapon and a shield” and said:
“Woe to those towns that will not make this act of reparation.”

Become Familiar: through books, videos and talks. Pray the prayers for your priests to know the Holy Face. Embed the prayers in your parish by praying them all in one go (20 minutes) or pray one a day of the five (4 minute) prayers over five days e.g. Monday to Friday e.g. before or after Mass together. Organise events: video showings, book clubs, prayer meetings onsite and online.

Partner with Us: become a **HLI Ireland ally** and a **Holy Face missionary** to the world. Our entire operation is expanding, entirely running on God’s providence and we invest any surplus back into mission. We are upgrading our website, translating into multiple languages and funding for an international state of the art app to get the Holy Face EVERYWHERE.

Contact us: info@theholysface.com and let us know how we can help you and vice versa.

<p>For an overview of the devotion go to our website right:</p>	<p>www.theholysface.com</p>
<p>History & Promises of the Holy Face devotion: >>></p>	<p>Click History & Promises</p>
<p>Live international Holy Face prayers weekly: >>></p> <p>Click right to order medals or an array of materials in our prayer packs</p> <p>Donate once off or if possible, monthly, by recurring donations: Click right to pay by card or Paypal</p> <p>or scan your phone’s QR reader to donate: right...</p> <p>Do you want to receive the latest issue of this newsletter every Tuesday by email? Then hit subscribe here</p>	<p>Sundays / holy days at 6pm & Tuesdays at 3.30pm Irish time / GMT on the following social media pages www.facebook.com/theholysface & www.youtube.com/theholysface</p> <p>Medals Prayerpacks</p> <p>Donate  Paypal</p> <p>Scan to pay</p>

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For an Ireland where God is First, Life is Sacred and the Family is Cherished

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