



The Holy Face of Jesus

Newsletter/ Video log



Issue 13 December 24th, 2024

‘God indeed has a Face’

Let the Heavens be glad:

*Canticle based on psalm 96, from
a 300 year old Italian Christmas
Novena*

*Let the heavens be glad and the
earth rejoice, O all you
mountains praise the Lord. Drop
down dew from above you
heavens, And let the clouds rain
the just one.*

*Let the earth be opened, And bud
forth the Savior! Remember us, O
Lord, And visit us in your
salvation.*

*Show your mercy to us, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation. Send
forth, O Lord, the Lamb, the ruler
of the earth, from the rock in the
desert to the Mount of Sion.*

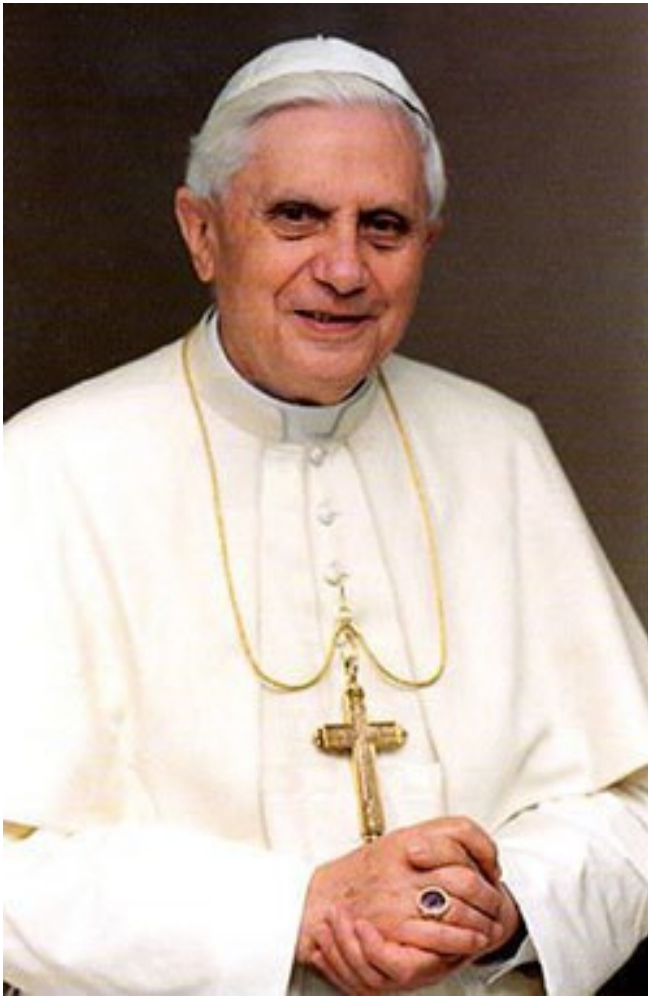


Come to free us, O Lord God of hosts; show your face and we shall be saved.

Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace, so that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

May we know on earth, O Lord, your way, your salvation among all nations. Put forth, O Lord, your strength, and come to save us. Come, O Lord, and do not hesitate; pardon the sins of your people. O that you would rend the heavens and come down, the mountains would melt in your presence.

Come and show us your face, O Lord, you who sit upon the cherubim.



Pope Benedict XVI gave a General Audience Address in January 16, 2013, addressing what seeking the Face of God meant prior to Jesus' birth and what it means since then.

Prior to the wonder of the eternal Word and second person of the Trinity becoming flesh, the Face of God was a central but entirely different concept to what this has meant for us since Jesus' birth. **Some thoughts on this...**

The pope noted (Jn 14:9): **'He who has seen me has seen the Father'** These words sum up the newness of the New Testament, that newness which appeared in the Bethlehem Grotto: God can be seen, God has shown His Face, He is visible in Jesus Christ."

'Beit lechem' or Bethlehem means 'House of Bread' in Hebrew and 'House of Meat' in Arabic while Manger means to eat. **Lechem** also means 'presence' in Hebrew and in the Exodus, in the Old Testament, in the tent of meeting, **'Lechem Ha pānīm'** literally means Face, Bread or Presence of God, a type and forerunner of the Eucharistic Face of Jesus. **Lechem Ha pānīm** referred to the 12 loaves brought weekly and consumed at the end of each departing Levitic priest's weekly service. It represented all believers then, namely, the 12 tribes of Israel, who were perpetually before God's Face and presence in the bread.

"The theme of the 'quest for God's Face', the desire to know this Face, the desire to see God as he is, is clearly present throughout the Old Testament, to the extent that the Hebrew term *pānīm* referring to God's Face, constantly sought, recurs 100 times," said the Pope. And yet, the Jewish religion forbade any images of God as idolatrous! **So what could seeking the Face of God mean?** On the one hand, regarding Moses we hear: ***"The Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend"* (Ex. 33:11)** But later says: ***But he said "you cannot see my face; for man shall not see me and live.... There is a place by me.... You shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen"*** (vv. 18-23).

The early Church Fathers said that seeing God's back only referred to that glory of His presence which could only be accessed by **following His call** from behind. The Old Testament use of God's Face was symbolic, designed nonetheless to express a true two-way relationship and the intensity of the experience of God's real presence. Therefore the actual Face of God remained hidden. All this changed with the incarnation however. **Jesus shows us God's features and Face (Jn. 14:9) as one of us and as God with us**, Emmanuel, fulfilling revelation and the innate hard wired desire in even atheists to know God. We see Him poor in worldly terms and are invited to see His Face in the poor ones, the ***anawim***; the weak and suffering. Pope Benedict concludes: **"This is only possible if the true Face of Jesus has become familiar to us through listening to his Word, in an inner conversation with Him, in entering this Word so that we truly meet Him, and of course, in the Mystery of the Eucharist. In Luke's Gospel, the two disciples of Emmaus recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread. For us too the Eucharist is the great school in which we learn to see God's Face, we enter into a close relationship with Him; and at the same time we learn to turn our gaze to the final moment of history when He will satisfy us with the light of His face."**



*Heaven looked upward in a human
Face and kissed upon your mouth
the mystic rose:*

**A Little Litany (addressed to and
congratulating Our Lady, Gate of
Heaven, on the birth of her Divine
Son Jesus) by G.K. Chesterton:**

*When God turned back eternity and
was young, Ancient of Days,
grown little for your mirth,
(As under the low arch the land is
bright) Peered through you, gate of
heaven – and saw the earth.*

*Or shutting out his shining skies
awhile, Built you about him for a
house of gold, To see in pictured
walls his storied world, Return upon
him as a tale is told.*

*Or found His mirror there; the only glass, That would not break with that unbearable light,
Till in a corner of the high dark house, God looked on God, as ghosts meet in the night.*

*Star of His morning (Mary), that unfallen star, in the strange starry overturn of space,
When earth and sky changed places for an hour,*

And heaven looked upwards in a human face!

*Or young on your strong knees and lifted up, Wisdom cried out, whose voice is in the street,
And more than twilight of twiformed cherubim, Made of his throne indeed a mercy-seat.*

Or risen from play at your pale raiment's hem,

God grown adventurous from all time's repose, of your tall body climbed the ivory tower,

And kissed upon your mouth the mystic rose.

Happy Christmas Our Lord and Our Lady from all of us lovers of the Holy Face of Jesus!

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>
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