

Marian Assembly

The Immaculate Heart of Mary



LEADER'S NOTES

This presentation lasts around 15 minutes. We recommend you deliver the whole assembly but **please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow.**

This assembly has been prepared by **Mission Together**, the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. 97% of money donated by children to **Mission Together** goes directly to helping children overseas. While all projects are Church-backed, **Mission Together** follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

This assembly uses animations. We recommend that you run through it first before delivering it.

HOLDING SLIDE

Welcome to your **Mission Together** Assembly.

This assembly focuses on **Mary** and is part of our series of Marian resources. For more in this series, please visit www.missiontogether.org.uk/marian-resources

The theme for this assembly is the concept of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

You may like to display this slide and listen to some music as the children enter the assembly.

SLIDE TWO

Today we are going to learn about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Mary is known by lots of **names**. Can you think of any names you have heard her called?

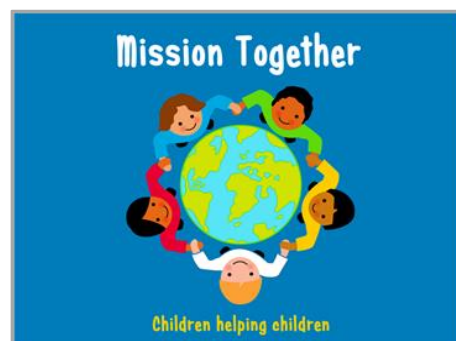
Invite some suggestions.

Glossary

Annunciation – the announcement made by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she was to give birth to the Son of God

Immaculate – perfectly clean or spotless

Symbol – something that represents (stands for) something else, such as a cross symbolising Christianity



You might hear Mary Mother of God, Mary Queen of Heaven, Mother Mary, Holy Queen, Our Lady, Madonna, Mother of Mercy or Star of the Sea.

One name you might hear associated with Mary is **Immaculate Heart**.

[Click to reveal the name 'Immaculate Heart'.](#)

In this assembly we are going to learn a bit more about what this name means.

The Bible reading we will hear now can help us.

SLIDE THREE

Let's listen carefully.

You might like to pre-select three readers from KS2 to read the parts of the narrator, angel Gabriel, and Mary.

[Click once to advance to the second half of the reading. Click again to move to the next slide.](#)



A reading from the Gospel of St Luke 1:26-38 (adapted)

God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.”

But Mary was confused and wondered, “What does this mean?”

The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High.”

Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen?”

The angel said to Mary, “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of God, the Most High, will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the **Son of God.**”

Mary said, “**I am the servant of the Lord.** Let this happen to me as you say!”

The Gospel of the Lord

This reading tells the story of the **Annunciation** – when the angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she would give birth to the Son of God. In this short reading we can see immediately how special Mary is.

Invite the children to suggest how this reading tells us that Mary is special.

Not only is she **visited by an angel**, she is also told that the **Lord has blessed her, is pleased with her** and has selected her for a highly important role. She has been **chosen** to be the mother of Jesus, God's son.

From this reading we can begin to understand the character of Mary.

Ask the children what they think this reading tells us about Mary. If the Lord is pleased with her, what do you think that tells us about what she was like? Why has God chosen her above all others?

SLIDE FOUR

Now we have thought a bit about how special Mary was, we are going to come back to the word **'immaculate'**.

What does 'immaculate' mean?

Invite a few suggestions, perhaps providing an example of someone who has an immaculate uniform or asking for a show of hands on who has an immaculate bedroom.

Click once to reveal definitions.

Immaculate means 'perfectly clean' or 'spotless'.

Your classroom might be perfectly clean, a new car might be spotless, but what does it mean when we say Mary was immaculate?

That she washed her hair? Had a bath? Was all shiny and clean?

Click to reveal 'shiny' image.

When we say that Mary is 'immaculate', are we thinking about how Mary appeared on the outside?

Of course not! Although taking pride in our appearance and staying clean is very important.

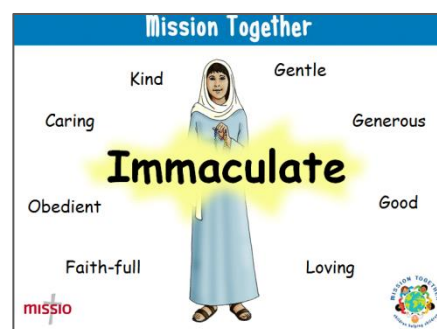
Click to move on to the next slide where you'll consider the word 'immaculate' in more detail.

SLIDE FIVE

When we talk about Mary being 'immaculate' we are talking about the many wonderful ways that Mary continues to show us she was the person God asked her to be.

What kind of things does Mary do that helps us recognise her 'immaculate' heart? What is she like?

Invite a few ideas. Encourage children to give examples too.



You may receive the response that Mary was **'good'** and that we know this because the angel Gabriel told her she was chosen by God.

[Click once to reveal a few words we might use to describe Mary.](#)

SLIDE SIX

This is a painting called the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The phrase **Immaculate Heart** is also used to talk about how Mary felt inside - her joys and sorrows.

Let's take a closer look at this painting to see what it tells us about Mary.

In this painting we can see some **symbols** which tell us about Mary's Immaculate Heart.

What is a symbol? *Invite some suggestions and elicit the response that a symbol is something that represents (stands for) something else. You might use the example of the cross being a symbol for the Church or perhaps use your school symbol. You can also see symbols on maps and road signs.*

[Click once to zoom in on the image of the heart.](#)

What symbols can you see in this painting? There are **four** things in this image that symbolise something about Mary. Can you find them?

Identify the heart, the sword, the fire and the flowers.

[Click to reveal these symbols one by one.](#)

What do you think the **heart** might represent? It stands for Mary's **love** for God.

The **fire** stands for Mary's **burning love** for her son, Jesus, and her **love for us**, which fills her heart.

The **sword** stands for Mary's **sorrow** – how sad she must have felt when Jesus died on the cross.

And the **flowers** symbolise Mary's **beauty** – how, through her loving ways, she shows us what it means to be a truly beautiful person.

SLIDE SEVEN

Mary is important because she agreed to carry our God's plan and become the mother of Jesus. In a special way this makes Mary our mother too. She **has a lot to teach us**.

Today we have learnt about Mary's immaculate heart.



Mission Together

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen

In silence, think of the good things that flowed from Mary's immaculate heart. She was kind, generous, loving, thoughtful, caring, obedient, etc.

How might you follow Mary's example today?

Could you be kind by looking after someone, be generous by giving some pocket money to an important cause like Mission Together, or be obedient by listening to your teachers?

Now make a commitment to be like Mary and show the world God's love today.

Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother. As she is **our mother** too, we know we can go to her with our prayers and concerns. So let's finish this assembly by asking Mary to look after all the children in the world. Let us pray a **Hail Mary**, followed by the **Mission Together prayer** together.