

## **Commentary on the Gospel for Sat, Jun 8th 2024**

### **Mary kept everything in her heart**

The celebration in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary holds a profound significance in the Christian faith, closely intertwined with the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This connection is not coincidental. Mary, in her deep love for her Son Jesus, extends this love to all those, for whom her Son lived, died, and was resurrected.

It is important to remember and contemplate the Heart of Mary after having contemplated the meaning of the Heart of Jesus. We Christians have a lot to learn from Mary's Heart. Mary is our teacher of the Christian life, who teaches us to give a complete and unconditional "YES" to the will of God. Like any of us, Mary also had to walk through that process of faith in which not everything was clear at the beginning.

The painful and anxious three days of searching would later repeat in the three days Mary lived through from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. Not everything was clear to her. However, Mary "kept everything in her heart," with faith and trust. Mary's heart teaches us not to lose hope and to meditate God's Word in our hearts to discern the will of God.

Saint Anthony Mary Claret, a 19th-century Spanish missionary, propagated the devotion of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He founded the religious congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, also known as the Claretian Missionaries. St. Claret composed the following prayer to Mary, which is inscribed in his chapel in Spain:

O Heart of Mary, furnace and instrument of love, enkindle me with the love of God and my neighbour.