

28 April

SAINT LOUIS MARIE DE MONTFORT, priest

Founder and Patron of the Montfortian Family

Solemnity

Entrance Antiphon

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of the messenger announcing peace, of the messenger of good news, who proclaims salvation and says to Zion, 'Your God is King', alleluia.

Opening Prayer

O God,
you inspired Saint Louis Marie with a fervent desire
to preach Christ's gospel to your people.
By his prayers on our behalf,
and under the guidance of the Virgin Mary,
may we always be docile to the Spirit,
and tireless apostles of your kingdom
in the service of our needy brothers and sisters.
We offer our prayer.

First Reading

(Acts 1:6-9,14; 2:1-4,42.)

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, with Mary, the mother of Jesus

Having met together, the apostles asked him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.

All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.

Those who believed remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102 (103)

Response: *My soul, give thanks to the Lord.*

or: *His goodness endures for all generations for those who are true to his covenant.*

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,
who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's. **R.**
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his way to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R.**
4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**
5. The Lord has set his sway in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all.
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,
mighty in power, fulfilling his word,
who heed the voice of his word. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Cor. 2:1-13

(Alternative First Reading if celebrating a Votive Mass)

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

*Through his Holy Spirit God has revealed to us the things he has prepared
for those who love him*

When I came to you, my brothers, to preach God's secret truth, I did not use big words and great learning. For while I was with you, I made up my mind to forget everything except Jesus Christ and especially his death on the cross. So when I came to you, I was weak and trembled all over with fear, and my teaching and message were not delivered with skilful words of human wisdom, but with convincing proof of the power of God's Spirit. Your faith, then, does not rest on human wisdom but on God's power.

Yet I do proclaim a message of wisdom to those who are spiritually mature. But it is not the wisdom that belongs to this world or to the powers that rule this world - powers that are losing their power. The wisdom I proclaim is God's secret wisdom, which is hidden from mankind, but which he had already chosen for our glory even before the world was made. None of the rulers

of this world knew this wisdom. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as the scripture says, 'What no one ever saw or heard, what no one ever thought could happen, is the very thing God prepared for those who love him.' But it was to us that God made known his secret by means of his Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, even the hidden depths of God's purposes. It is only a person's own spirit within him that knows all about him; in the same way, only God's Spirit knows all about God. We have not received this world's spirit; instead, we have received the Spirit sent by God, so that we may know all that God has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. We are preaching a crucified Christ, a Christ who is both the power of God and the wisdom of God. Alleluia.

Gospel

(Matt. 28:16-20)

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations and I am with you always

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Or: Gospel - 2

(Jn. 19:25-27)

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

To the disciple he said, 'This is your mother'

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
we lay these gifts on your altar
in honour of Saint Louis Marie.
May the Holy Spirit transform them
into the sacrament of our salvation
and make our lives an offering acceptable to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preface of the Saints, or of Pastors.

Antiphon at Communion

(Jn. 19:27)

Jesus said to the disciple he loved, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
we have joyfully partaken of your body
on this feast of Saint Louis Marie.
May we, in the strength of this sacrament,
continually seek to perfect our lives as Christians,
until we come to the happiness of the eternal banquet
which you have promised to those who follow you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.