

Gathering Hymn

Holy Virgin, by God's decree,
You were called eternally;
That he could give his Son to our race.
Mary, we praise you, hail, full of grace.

Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria.

By your faith and loving accord,
As the handmaid of the Lord,
You undertook God's plan to embrace.
Mary, we thank you, hail, full of grace.

(Repeat Chorus)

Refuge for your children so weak,
Sure protection all can seek.
Problems of life you help us to face.
Mary, we trust you, hail full of grace.

(Repeat Chorus)

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Welcome and Introduction

A warm welcome to everyone as we celebrate this special day for Oblates all over the world. Mary Immaculate is the patroness of the Oblate family, so it is particularly fitting that it is on this day that some of you will be enrolled as Friends of St. Eugene in the Anglo-Irish province. As we gather together as the Oblate family, I thank those who are making a commitment tonight, for the dedicated way in which they have prepared themselves through prayer and learning about St. Eugene and his mission.

Penitential Rite

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria – The new Celtic Liturgy (sung)

Glory to God, Glory to God,

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace, and on earth peace,

Peace to people of goodwill.

Cantor:

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

(Repeat Chorus)

Cantor:

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

(Repeat Chorus)

Cantor:

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen, Amen.

(Repeat Chorus)

The Collect

Let us pray. *(all pray in silence)*

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Book of Genesis 3:9-15,20

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree,
the Lord God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?"
He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid,
because I was naked, so I hid myself."

Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked?"

You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you
to eat!" The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with
me she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it."

The Lord God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a
thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so
I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, you shall be banned
from all the animals and from all the wild creatures;
on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat
all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the
woman, and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

The man called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of
all the living.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: (sung)

Sing a new song unto the Lord;

let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing alleluia.

Yahweh's people dance for joy, O come before the Lord, and play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.

(Repeat Chorus)

Rise, O children, from your sleep, your Saviour now has come,
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul
with song.

(Repeat Chorus)

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.

The trumpet sounds, the dead shall be raised.

I know my Saviour lives.

(Repeat Chorus)



Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:13-6, 11-12

Brothers and sisters: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favour of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (Celtic alleluia - sung)

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women.

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Homily

Service of Commitment

Tonight as friends of St Eugene you are invited to offer yourself and your gifts to God in union with the entire Oblate Family. The word "*Oblate*" means totally offered to God.

Litany to St. Eugene.

St. Eugene, the Church has recognised your holiness and proclaimed you as a model for others in their search for Christ. Pray with us as we intercede for ourselves and others in their need.

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| St. Eugene, you experienced the love of God | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, preacher of the Good News | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, lover of the Blessed Sacrament | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, intercessor for all who live in poverty. | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, you brought others to God's love | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, encourager of youth | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate | Pray for us |
| St. Eugene, faithful to the example of Mary our Mother | Pray for us |



With St. Eugene, we pray for those who suffer the pain of broken relationships
Lord hear our prayer

With St. Eugene, we pray for those who live in exile
Lord hear our prayer

With St. Eugene, we pray for those in prison
Lord hear our prayer

With St. Eugene, we pray for those who live in fear
Lord hear our prayer

With St. Eugene, we pray for those who are persecuted
Lord hear our prayer

With St. Eugene, we pray for those who work for justice
Lord hear our prayer

Let us pray

God of joyful hope and faithful love: you call us to share more fully in the mission of your Son. Inspired by the charism of St. Eugene, may we be witnesses to the power and presence of Jesus, and that guided by the Holy Spirit, we may always be disciples of the Good News, especially among the poor and most abandoned.

Amen.

I invite those of you who feel ready to make this commitment as a Friend of St Eugene to come forward.

people to assemble at the steps of the sanctuary

Do you feel ready to commit yourself to being a Friend of St. Eugene through regular prayer, living a simple lifestyle and with a community spirit of openness to others especially the poor and marginalised?

I do.

Will you seek to deepen your relationship with Christ by imitating the pattern of his life?

I will.

Will you promise to live the day to day realities of your life as St Eugene de Mazenod did, so that each event will be the occasion for a personal encounter with the Lord?

I will.

Will you make every effort to act and make choices that bear witness to your belief in the dignity of each person and the compassion of God for all peoples?

I will.

Will you take time annually to renew your commitment to the Friends of St. Eugene and to participate in a retreat experience?

I will.

Thank you for your responses and your willingness to live the Oblate charism in your lives. I trust that with the help of God's grace and impassioned for Christ, the Church and Mission, you will continue to witness to the Spirit of St. Eugene that has inspired so many men and women all over the world since the foundation of the Oblate Congregation.

Fr Willie distributes the certificates of enrolment to each individual. As each person receives their copy they say:

I make this commitment under the patronage of St.Eugene de Mazenod and Mary Immaculate.

Quiet music is played as certificates are distributed



SYMBOL OF COMMITMENT

As an outward symbol of their commitment, the Friends of St. Eugene are given a small lapel pin. This pin is round, symbolising the world, and is made up of the three letters, "OMI", clearly making the Oblate identity central to the design.

The letters form an Oblate cross, with arms outstretched to embrace the world in oblation, a total self-giving. In one sign we are reminded of a loving Christ, the charism of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and our own role as Christians and as Friends of St. Eugene bringing the Good News to the world in word and action.

Prayer of the Faithful

After each intention there is a pause for silent prayer.

Mary, you encouraged Jesus to listen to his inner wisdom. In the same way guide the leaders of our Church to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who guides them in the way of truth. *(pause)*
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Mary, you have given us an example of faithfulness to God in prayer. Today we place not only ourselves but our parish under

your protection. May we persevere in prayer and in so doing grow closer to your Son. (pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who wish to formalise their association with the Oblate Congregation as Friends of St Eugene. With God's help may they be encouraged by the example of St. Eugene to be witnesses to the love of God for all people, especially the poor and marginalised. (pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

On this special day for our Oblate family, we pray especially for the Oblate mission which is based on the Gospel call to "evangelize the poor". We pray that you, Holy Spirit, may continue to bless the work of the Oblate mission worldwide.

(pause)

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Tonight as we unite our prayers with Mary Immaculate we sing:

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae;

vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve.

Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevae.

Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes

in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, advocata nostra,

illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.

Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,

nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory hymn

All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have, I offer now to you.
Take and sanctify these gifts
For your honour, Lord.
Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.
All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

All that I dream, all that I pray,
All that I'll ever make, I give to you today.
Take and sanctify these gifts for your honour, Lord.
Knowing that I love and serve you is enough reward.
All that I am, all that I do,
All that I'll ever have I offer now to you.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
For the praise and glory of his name,
For our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord, accept this sacrifice on the feast of the sinless Virgin Mary.
You kept her free from sin from the first moment of her life.
Help us by her prayers, and free us from our sins.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

Preface of the Immaculate Conception

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
You allowed no stain of Adam's sin
to touch the Virgin Mary.

Full of grace, she was to be a worthy mother of your Son,
your sign of favour to the Church at its beginning,
and the promise of its perfection as the bride of Christ, radiant in
beauty.

Purest of virgins, she was to bring forth your Son,
the innocent lamb who takes away our sins.
You chose her from all women to be our advocate with you and
our pattern of holiness.
In our joy we say with all the choirs of angels:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: **Our Father..**

Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Hymn

Be not afraid

You shall cross the barren desert,
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and they will understand,
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid. I go before you always.

Come, follow me, and I shall give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters
in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amidst the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow'r of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you, through it all.

(Repeat Chorus)

Blessed are your poor,
for the Kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked ones insult and hate you,
all because of me,
blessed, blessed are you!

(Repeat Chorus)

Prayer after Communion

Lord our God, in your love, you chose the Virgin Mary and kept her free from sin. May this sacrament of your love free us from our sins. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Solemn Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Born of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Son of God redeemed mankind.
May he enrich you with his blessings. **Amen.**

You received the author of life through Mary.
May you always rejoice in her loving care. **Amen.**

You have come to rejoice at Mary's feast.
May you be filled with the joys of the Spirit
and the gifts of your eternal home. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional hymn

Immaculate Mary
Our hearts are on fire.
That title so wondrous
Fills all our desire

Chorus:

Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave, Maria

We pray for God's glory,
May His Kingdom come.
We pray for His Vicar,
Our Father, and Rome.

(Chorus)

We pray for our Mother,
The Church upon earth.
And bless, sweetest Lady,
The land of our birth.

(Chorus)



The photo on the front of the cover is of the column of Mary Immaculate which was blessed by St. Eugene in Marseille, France.