

# Saint Maria Goretti

## Prayer

**O Saint Maria Goretti, who, strengthened by God's grace, did not hesitate, even at the age of twelve, to shed your blood and sacrifice life to defend your virginal purity, deign to look graciously on the unhappy human race, which has strayed far from the path of eternal salvation.**

**Teach us all, and especially modern youth, with what courage and haste we should flee anything that could offend Jesus and defile our souls with sin. Obtain for us from God great horror of sin so that, keeping our souls undefiled, we may live holy lives on earth and win eternal glory in heaven. Amen.**



St. Maria Goretti was born to a poor peasant family on 16 October 1890 in Corinaldo, a town near Ancona, Italy. Maria was the third of seven children of Luigi and Assunta Goretti.

When she was seven years old, the Goretti family moved to Ferriere di Conca, a village near Anzio, where they shared a home with Giovanni Serenelli and his son Alessandro. Maria was nine years old when her father died of malaria. While her mother worked the farm Maria took care of her siblings and also cooked for the Serenellis.

Maria was known for her unusual serious-mindedness and piety. Every night she would recite the Holy Rosary for the repose of her father's soul. As Ferriere had no parish church, nor a priest, Maria would walk for kilometers for the privilege of hearing Mass.

At the time it was not customary to receive First Holy Communion before the age of twelve, but Maria, extremely devout and religious, pleaded with her mother to let her take instructions when Maria was not quite eleven years of age. Every day, Maria walked to the village of Mazzoleni, where she received catechetical instructions. During this time Maria intensified her piety, obedience to her mother and love for her siblings. She was busy preparing her soul to receive Jesus. On Thursday, 29 May 1902, the feast of Corpus Christi, she received her Lord for the first time. Maria would receive the Body of Christ only 4 more times before she died.

Being a beautiful child, Maria attracted the attention of 20-year-old Alessandro. It was 5 July 1902 when Alessandro tried to force his attention on her. He was furious over her refusal to commit an act of impurity and when Maria resisted him with all her strength, crying out repeatedly, "It is a sin. God forbids it," he drew a knife and stabbed her fourteen times.

At about 6 o'clock in the evening her weakened body was put on a stretcher and put in a horse-drawn ambulance which took her to the hospital at Nettuno. Doctors worked feverishly to save her life. No anesthetic was administered because the attendants were afraid of peritonitis. Despite the intense pain, she uttered not a sound, till she finally lost consciousness. In the morning of 6 July 1902, Maria received Holy Communion for the last time, and openly forgave Alessandro, her murderer. Then Maria died.

Alessandro was captured soon after Maria's death. Originally, he was going to be sentenced to death, but since he was a minor at that time the sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison. He remained unrepentant and incommunicative to the world. In his 8<sup>th</sup> year of imprisonment, he had a vision of Maria. He saw a garden, where a young girl dressed in white was gathering lilies. She smiled, came near him and invited him to accept an armful of lilies. As he accepted them, each lily was transformed into a still white flame. Maria then disappeared.

A local Bishop, Monsignor Giovanni Blandini, visited Alessandro in jail. He wrote a thank you note to the Bishop, asking for his prayers and telling him about his dream. Alessandro's conversion was complete. When he was released from prison after serving 27 years, his first act was to travel to Maria's mother, Assunta, to beg her forgiveness. She forgave him, saying that if Maria had forgiven him on her deathbed then she could not do less, and they attended Mass together the next day, receiving Holy Communion side by side. Alessandro reportedly prayed every day to Maria Goretti, referring to her as "my little saint."

Alessandro later became a Capuchin lay brother, living in a convent and working as its receptionist and gardener, until he died peacefully in 1970.

On 27 April 1947, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII beatified Maria, and on 24 June 1950, the same Pope solemnly canonized her and proclaimed Saint Maria Goretti the new patroness of Catholic Youth. This ceremony was attended by 250,000 of the faithful, including her mother (the first mother to see her child canonized) and her brothers and sisters. St. Maria Goretti has also been a principal patroness of the WORLD YOUTH DAY celebrations, begun by Saint Pope John Paul II, and held around the world.

## Parish Week / Sunday, 6 July 2025

**Saturday, 5 July / St. Anthony Zaccaria, priest**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Marguerite & George Chachati (Fr. Elias)  
1.00 pm Mass: 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Fagaragan  
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Guiller Cenizal on his Birthday (family)

### SUNDAY, 6 JULY / 14-C / ST. MARIA GORETTI

■ Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

- 9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Crisanto & Jovita Geonzon (Eden & family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Departed Souls of WeDoCare clients (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

#### Monday, 7 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Jim Harvey (Veronica)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Fernando & Beatriz Remedios (family)  
7.40 pm Infant Baptism Parent / Godparent meeting

#### Tuesday, 8 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Barbara Gacusana (Mom, Evelyn)

**9 July / St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest, & Companions, martyrs**

- 8.00 am Mass: † John Walsh (Evelyn)

#### Thursday, 10 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Priscilla Dualan (Corine)

#### Friday, 11 July / St. Benedict, abbot

- 8.00 am Mass: † Philip Soosaipillai (family)

#### Saturday, 12 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Caroline & Cyril Bastiampillai (family)  
11.00 am Memorial Mass: † John Walsh  
1.00 pm Wedding: Christopher Bertucci & Brianna Bush  
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Rajiv Biswas)

### SUNDAY, 13 JULY / 15-C

■ Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo

■ 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: ShareLife Freewill

- 9.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas (Charles)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Alwina Fernando (friends)  
1.30 pm Infant Baptism  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## ShareLife 2025 Living the Gospel

St. Maria Goretti, 6 July

### You are there for seniors in their time of need.

Your support of agencies funded by *ShareLife*, like the CARDINAL AMBROZIC HOUSES OF PROVIDENCE, gives seniors, like John, a sense of belonging. As one of many valued residents who live with dementia, his cognitive impairment can leave him confused, vulnerable. Your compassion makes it possible for him to be with his family and caregivers in a comforting environment. John's son has fondly witnessed gestures that go above and beyond for his father, ensuring he's never left embarrassed. This is a real testament to the dignity and life-affirming respect you help provide.

Sunday, 13 July, is our *ShareLife Freewill* Collection. Please give generously. Thank you for your support for *ShareLife*.



## Focus on the Word

**St. Maria Goretti / 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year C**

**Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6.14-18; Luke 10.1-20**

*O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Amen.*

## St. Maria Goretti Feast

6 July is the feast of the dear patroness of our parish, **St. Maria Goretti**. We have the privilege of honouring her in a special way in our Masses on: **5/6 July**.

### SATURDAY, 5 JULY

On Saturday, 5 July, the eve of the feast day of our dear Saint Maria Goretti, we have an appropriate program to venerate the patroness of our Parish:

- 4.00 pm Holy Hour in honour of St. Maria Goretti  
5.00 pm Solemn Mass, with *Veneration of Relic*.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 5/6 JULY

All Masses: *Sprinkling with Holy Water* in reparation for all acts of sacrilege and desecration;  
*Prayer to St. Maria Goretti* after Communion, *Veneration of Relic*

- 9.00 am: *Enthronement* of statue of our Patroness, by the **Catholic Women's League**.  
10.30 am: *Liturgical dance* at the Presentation of the Gifts, by the **Children's Choir**.  
12.00 pm: *Enthronement* of the picture of the visit of the Body of our Patroness, by the **Knights of Columbus Honour Guard**.

## The Knights of Columbus Upcoming events



- 26 July **Car Wash**, 12 noon – 4 pm  
13 Sept. **Dinner Dance**, 6 – 10 pm

### COMING UP

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- 20 July St. Vincent de Paul Bake Sale & *Krispy Kreme* donuts (9 am – 2 pm)  
26 July KOC & Youth Ministry Car Wash (12 – 4 pm)  
1 Aug. ► Quebec Jubilee Pilgrimage (*Montreal & Quebec City*)  
2 Aug. ► Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage (3 *Toronto Churches*)  
5 Aug. **Fr. Elias Chachati, birthday** (1955)  
13 Aug. ► Mass at **Christ the King Catholic Cemetery** (7.00 pm)  
15 Aug. Feast of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**;  
- ► *Canadian National Exhibition* opens  
24 Aug. ► Toronto Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine, Midland  
28 Aug. Feast of **St. Augustine**









*Above:* Blessed Trinity Prayer Group  
*Below:* **Desmond Chang Sang** on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, 6 June 2025



*Below:* **Bishop Noel Emmanuel** of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka







*Raising the ground level for new sod.*





*Above:* Portables are removed from St. Maria Goretti School, 2 July 2025.

*Below:* Blessing of the DeGuzman home on Garthwood Drive.









