

Sacred Heart of Jesus...



Original Oil Painting
Joseph Fanelli 1993

One of the most well-known titles attributed to Jesus is the “Sacred Heart”. In Scripture, the heart is considered the centre of a person and often describes the whole person. Jesus referred to himself as the heart of God. “Come to me, all who labour and are weary and I will give you rest...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Mt 11:28-39

We are called to reflect on the heart of Jesus, the heart of the Risen Christ, whose words and actions taught us how we can be and His heart to others in the brokenness of our world.

Jesus, who restored sight to the blind, reached out to the marginalised and accepted the outcasts of society, offers hope and inspiration for us to continue his sacred mission in our world today.

Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods accepted Jesus’ invitation to be his heart on Earth. Josephite Companions too, are encouraged to be the heart of Jesus in the world. May the heart of Jesus, which reflected the unconditional love, tenderness, and mercy of our Creator God, bring about renewed hope in our daily lives...to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God in our world.

Light a candle, the symbol of the presence of Jesus, reflected and illuminated in yourself, others, and all of creation.



Prayer

Listening Heart of God,
I praise you with an open heart.

Compassionate Heart of God,
I praise your merciful love.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, overflowing with love
I place my trust in you.

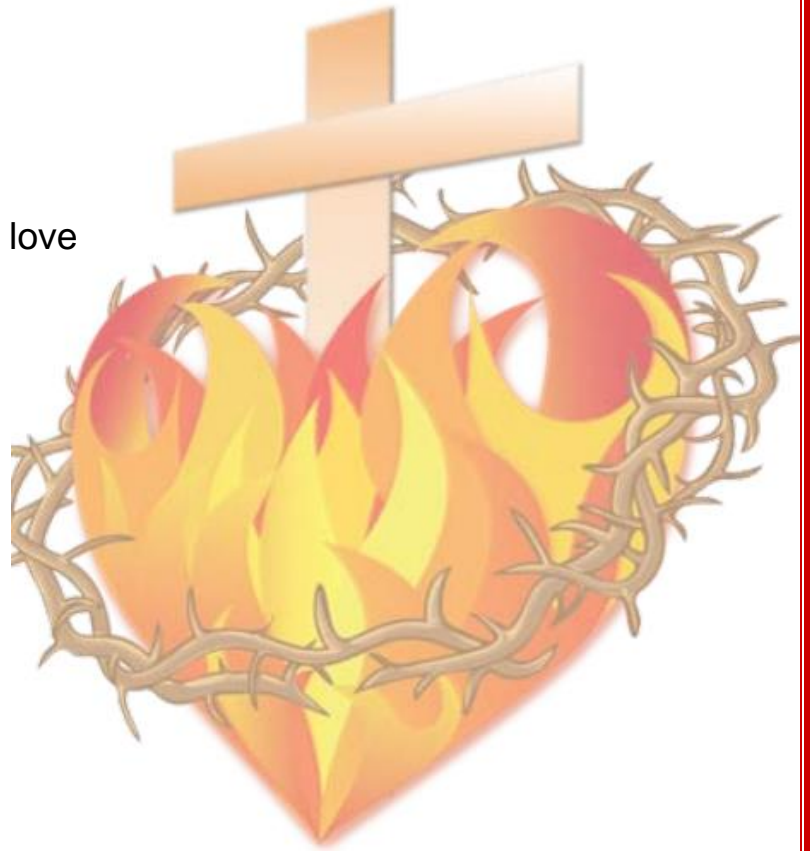


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Word of God

John15:9-11

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
Abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love, that my joy may
be in you, and that your joy may be full.

These things I have spoken to you.

Reflection

“The heart of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of God’s mercy.” Pope Francis

What does the Sacred Heart of Jesus mean for you?

Speak your words aloud or whisper them in the silence of your heart.

Hear these words echo in your heart.



“God bless and keep you and make sweet and easy the individual Cross you may each, for His love and your own good, have to bear.” MMK 1873

What are my worries or burdens?

Do I share them with the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

Do I stay open to His healing love?



“...and we are in the month of the Sacred Heart – May that loving heart bring to one and all of you its own true spirit – its spirit of love, true charity and sweet humility.” MMK 1890

Will you follow the example of the Church in focusing on the Sacred Heart of Jesus during this time?

In what practical ways can you do this?



“Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life.” MMK 1909

Am I an instrument of God’s endless love?

Do I share God’s infinite love with family, friends, the Earth and those in need?



Prayer

**May we develop hearts of compassion and hearts that are full of trust.
May our hearts be ready to forgive and to share the hospitality of God.
May our hearts be open and full of courage ready to continue the mission of God.
May our hearts justly and freely share our world's resources.
Amen.**

Blessing

**My Sacred Heart is pierced by
Miserly loving, indifference to others, deliberate injustices
And... by unexpected kindnesses.**

**My Sacred Heart goes out to
those in pain, feeling lonely, overcome by life's struggles
And... those who seek to understand and comfort them.**

**My Sacred Heart draws in
those at the edges, those feeling alienated and lost
And... all those whose arms create community.**

**My Sacred Heart is strengthened by
day to day faithfulness, standing with, walking beside
And...when invited – by walking in front.**

**My Sacred Heart is ablaze transforming
poverty, war, homelessness and hopelessness
And...with the spread of reconciling relationship.**

**My Sacred Heart cries out for
right relationship, meaningful connections, making the most of life
And...for a gentle time with you.**

**My Sacred Heart is your heart
Josephite Companions be my heart**

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