

# Scripture Prayer For The Week



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

"Once...  
when Jesus...  
was praying alone..." Luke 9:18

## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Year A

**We Gather:** In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. A white cloth covers the table. An image of Mary Madonna might be placed on the stand. A white candle could be lit as the gathering prayer is said.

**Leader:** Today a light will shine upon us  
**All:** The Lord has come amongst us.

**We Listen:** The Gospel Luke 2:16-21

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

**Commentary:** 'As for Mary, she treasured all these things.' Luke 2: 19

The shepherds and 'everyone' were full of the marvellous events of the Birth night, but Mary takes it quietly-as well might a mother who has just given birth in a public camping area. She has had nine months to deal with the enormous change in her life that unexpected pregnancy, challenging marriage beginning and two major journeys have made in her life. Her response is to do what she must, cope as best she can and, above all, treasure and ponder over the miracle of conception and birth that has determined a new life for her as it does for every parent. This part of the story is accessible to us all: we know how she must have felt. The bigger picture often seems to elude us: what does it mean to talk of the "mother of God". How can that be? A scandal or a lie? Or the actual "big bang" of human history-God becoming one of us! With Mary, let's ponder that reality.

**We Respond:** 'She treasured all these things.'

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- Whom do we treasure? Do we treasure them because of what they give to us or for what they are in themselves?
- What do we treasure? Does our treasure produce wisdom and love as we ponder it?

**Song:** Joy to the World (Watts/Handel-AOV1) or O Holy Mary (Owen Alstott-AOV1)

**We Go Forth:**

God, you have visited your children and we rejoice. As father and mother you re-create us day by day, you tender us and you fill us with good things. Above all, you have given us the treasure of your Word, Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph and light of the world. May this priceless gift be our delight bringing us abundance of your wisdom and truth. Amen

**Leader:** Let us go, in joy and holy gladness      **All:** Thanks be to God.