

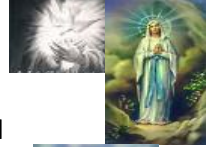


Diocese of Broken Bay 2009–Feast Days of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM)

Jan 1 (S) Mary, Mother of God



Feb 11 (O) Our Lady of Lourdes



Mar 25 (S) Annunciation of the Lord



May 13 (O) Our Lady of Fatima



May 25 (S) Mary, Help of Christians
(Patronal Feast - Australia)



Jun 1 (S) Mary, Star of the Sea
(Patronal Feast – Diocese)



Jun 20 (M) Immaculate Heart of Mary



Jul 16 (O) Our Lady of Mt Carmel



Aug 15 (S) Assumption of the BVM



Aug 22 (O) Queenship of Mary



Sept 8 (F) Birthday of the BVM



Sept 12 (O) Holy Name of Mary

Sept 15 (M) **Our Lady of Dolours (Sorrows)**
(Patronal Feast – Parish)



Oct 7 (M) Our Lady of the Rosary



Nov 21 (M) Presentation of the BVM



Dec 8 (S) Immaculate Conception of the BVM



Observance of Days Honouring Mary in Diocese of Broken Bay – 2009

A number of days can be observed across the world to honour Mary. There can also be national observance eg for the Feast of the Patron Saint of Australia, Mary, Help of Christians and local observance eg for the Feast of the Patron Saint of the Diocese, Mary, Star of the Sea. The Church decides whether the celebrations, commonly called ‘Feast Days’ should be local, regional or universal and their degree, that is whether they are a solemnity, a feast or a memorial.

In general terms, a *Solemnity* (S) begins the day before, a *Feast* (F) is confined to the ‘natural’ day and a *Memorial* is either obligatory (M) and celebrated throughout the Church or optional (O), that is, observable by choice. The Feast of the Assumption (Aug 15) is both a Solemnity **and a Holy Day of Obligation in Australia**. The national patronal feast day for Mary, Help of Christians is 24 May. However as this falls on Ascension Sunday in 2009, we will celebrate on 25 May.

Together with the regular Sunday honouring of the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, there are a number of ‘Feast Days’ honouring Christ. Some are celebrated on a specific Sunday eg Baptism of Jesus, Ascension, Body and Blood of Christ and Christ the King; others on the day on which they fall. In 2009 these are: the Presentation of our Lord (Feb 2), the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 19), the Transfiguration (Aug 6) and the Triumph of the Cross (Sept 14). This means that there are over fifty days a year on which we honour Christ.

Days honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) are based on:

- events related in Scripture (eg the Annunciation)
- objects of dogmatic statements (eg Immaculate Conception)
- popular devotion (eg Our Lady of the Rosary) or
- geographical connection (eg Our Lady of Lourdes).

More information about the 16 days set aside in the Diocese in 2009 to honour Mary will appear in the bulletin of the Sunday preceding the ‘Feast day’ and on the parish website. A coloured reminder to put on your fridge is available from the Piety Stall at a cost of 50c.