



The Holy Face of Jesus



“My Face is the seal of the Divinity, which has the virtue of reproducing in souls the image of God. All those who honour my face in a spirit of reparation will by doing so perform the office of the pious Veronica.”

Jesus to Sr. Maria of St Peter (Carmelite – Tours, France 1816-1848)

The veneration of the Holy Face, began with the tender act of St. Veronica on the Via Dolorosa. Veronica (*who is thought by many, to be the woman with ‘the issue of blood’ - Lk 8 43-48*) holding out a piece of linen to cleanse the bloodied face of Christ, became aware of the miraculous image imprinted upon it. The image was given to St Clement, a disciple of St Peter, and housed in the catacombs for safety, now resides in the Basilica of St Peter, Rome. In 1843, Sr. Maria of St Peter received visions from the Lord asking her to establish a devotion to the Holy Face, to make amends for the wrongdoings of our world, rewarding those who followed this devotion, special promises were given: ‘By offering My Face to My Eternal Father, nothing will be refused and the conversion of many sinners obtained.’ The above pictures of the Holy Face, represent an image of Jesus taken from the Holy Shroud, and the actual veil of Veronica.

As a very visual person, I first came across the (above left) image as a teenager, and my heart sang ... ‘it is Him!’ From that moment on, I have always been drawn to the Holy Face, during my own personal search for God in my life. The (left) image above is an artistic reproduction of the face on the Shroud of Turin, believed to be imprinted upon the Holy Shroud at the moment of the resurrection. This incredibly powerful image, enables me to behold the Face of Jesus, every day. This is the face that overcame all of the insults and pain of the passion, bourn patiently for our redemption, the face is victorious and promises victory. The eyes of Jesus speak to me of an intimate ‘knowing’, a knowing that only a creator can have for his creations, and in that knowledge, He always knows what is best for me, preparing me, intimately, for my own resurrection and eternal life with Him in Glory. Yet His Face is so humble, so simple! What a wonderful statement of God’s condescension, and desire to be one with us, in our nothingness, so as to become our wholeness!

I have received many graces through the prayer of ‘gazing’ and I invite you to begin this devotion with me. The Feast Day of the Holy Face (*established by Pope Pius XI*) is held annually on Shrove Tuesday, traditionally the novena can begin nine days before the great feast or nine days starting on the Tuesday. Most importantly, the novena does not have a start or end date and can be said anytime. I would like to encourage you to look upon the images above and reflect upon them, there are many novenas out there and I will include them in the links below. What I feel is important, is that you build a relationship with the Face of the Lord, as Veronica did **before** she bathed His Face and by doing so, you not only please and comfort the Lord, making reparation for the many atrocities, blasphemies and sinfulness of this broken world, but you will also ‘lean on His heart,’ (*Jn, 13:23*) and He will transform you, spiritually.

<https://theholysface.com/the-revelations/promises-of-our-lord-jesus-christ/https://www.holysface.org.uk/index.htm>

Cath Manley: 9th February 2021