



# Our Lady Help of Christians

May 24

## Who was Our Lady Help of Christians?

One of the most significant events associated with Our Lady Help of Christians occurred in the 16th century during the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. The Christian fleet, led by the Holy League, was facing the Ottoman navy. Pope Pius V called for prayers to the Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians for victory. Despite being vastly outnumbered, the Christian fleet won a decisive victory on October 7, 1571.

In 1862, Pope Pius IX established May 24 as the feast day of Our Lady Help of Christians to commemorate the dedication of the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome to Mary under this title. This feast day is celebrated with special Masses, processions, and prayers, particularly in places where devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians is strong.

The devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians emphasizes Mary's role as a compassionate intercessor and protector of Christians in times of difficulty and danger. Many Catholics turn to her in times of need, seeking her assistance and guidance.

The Salesian Order, founded by Saint John Bosco, has a special devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians. They invoke her assistance in their mission to educate and care for young people, following the example of their founder, who had a deep devotion to Mary under this title.

The Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians serves as a reminder of Mary's maternal care and intercession in the lives of Christians, offering comfort, protection, and hope to those who turn to her in faith.

[Our Lady Help of Christians CES Website](#)

[Our Lady Queen of the World Parish Website](#)



## Quotes

*"Our Lady, Help of Christians, will be the Foundress and perpetual Protectress of all our works."*

- Don Bosco

*"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world."*

- Pope Pius IX

*"We owe many great debts of gratitude to Mary, Help of Christians. What we are and what we have done, we owe to Her."*

- Don Bosco

## Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Heavenly Father,

We gather today to honour Our Lady, Help of Christians, and seek her powerful intercession for our school community.

O Blessed Mother, you who are our guide and protector, we entrust our students and staff to you.

Grant our students the wisdom to seek knowledge, the courage to face challenges and the grace to grow in faith and virtue. May they always feel your loving presence and find strength in your maternal care.

Bless our staff with patience, understanding and compassion. Help them to inspire and nurture the minds and hearts of our students. May they be guided by your example of humility and service.

Mary, Help of Christians, be our advocate and shield us from all harm. Lead us to your Son, Jesus, and help us to live lives that reflect His love and truth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Patron Saint of:

Australia





## York Catholic District School Board



**FEAST DAY:**  
**May 24**

**SCHOOL LOCATION:**  
Richmond Hill, ON

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*- Don Bosco*

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**PATRON SAINT OF:**

- Australia

