

What does the Hail Mary mean?

Here are few pointers to start understanding this prayer that is so full of meaning.

In this prayer, we honor God by praising his mother, Mary. As we say these good things about Mary, we remember that God wants to make us like Mary: full of love for God and each other. In the next part of the prayer, we ask Mary, who is also our mother, to help us.

Hail Mary,

“Hail” is a way to say “hello” to a very important person.

full of grace,

Mary was full of God’s gifts, full of goodness; she did not have any sin.

the Lord is with thee.

“Thee” means “you.” Mary always stays close to Jesus.

Blessed art thou among women,

“Blessed” means given good things by God. “Art” means “are.” “Thou” means “you.”

Mary was given the amazing gift of being the Mother of God; she is the most special woman ever.

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

“Fruit of thy womb,” means “your baby.” Mary’s baby was Jesus, who is both human and God.

Holy Mary,

“Holy” means “belongs to God.” Mary totally belongs to God.

Mother of God,

Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and since Jesus is God, she is the Mother of God.

pray for us sinners now,

Since Mary is God’s Queen, always with Him, we ask her to ask God to take care of us.

and at the hour of our death.

We ask Mary to make sure we go to heaven when we die.

Amen.

