

NOVENA PRAYER FOR A PERSONAL INTENTION

*Mary Ward, Servant of God,
you gave loving compassion
and care to everyone you met
on your life's journey.
Pray to God for me and for my
intention.*

.....

*May I experience your help
and be heard
if what I ask is for God's honour
and the greater good.
Jesus say 'Amen'*

If you believe your prayers have been answered,
please:

Write: Office for the Cause of Mary Ward
Loreto International House
25 Rathfarnham Wood
Dublin D14 H2R6, Ireland

Email: causemaryward@gmail.com

or contact any CJ or IBVM Community

PRAYER FOR MARY WARD'S BEATIFICATION

*God, Creator of all that is good,
we thank you for giving Mary Ward
to the Church and to the world.
Impelled by the fire of your love
she did not shrink from risks,
labours or sufferings.*

*She lived and worked
for your greater glory,
for the good of the Church,
for the nurture of faith,
and for the dignity of women.*

*She was a pilgrim,
who spread the joy of the Gospel,
a woman for our times.*

*Grant that through the solemn testimony
of the Church the example of her life may
be a light for all who seek God's will.*

Amen

*Yours ever
Marie Ward.*



**PRAYER FOR THE
BEATIFICATION OF**

Mary Ward

MARY WARD

1585 - 1645

Mary Ward was born on 23rd January 1585 in the north of England during a time when Catholics were hunted and persecuted for their continued allegiance to the Pope.

From a young age, she desired to give her life to the service of God, but the way to do this was not clear. She believed that God was calling her and her followers to live a life without enclosure so that they could support people in their faith and in many other ways. However, her vision of apostolic religious life for women did not fit in with the Church's view at that time.

With a small group of friends she moved to Saint-Omer in Flanders. Clarity came for her with an insight that they were to take the same way of life as the Society of Jesus, founded by St Ignatius of Loyola, as far as was possible for women. Mary's emphasis was on friendship with God, being free to be oneself, in utter openness and trust, ready to do whatever work was needed to let people know of God's love.

Despite establishing foundations across Europe, she continued to encounter many obstacles which culminated in authorities in Rome ordering her imprisonment and the suppression of her Institute. Mary accepted her suffering as she accepted poverty and sickness, with trust in God. She remained cheerful, calm and unswerving in her loyalty to the Church.

She died at York in England on 30 January 1645.

Exiled from her own land, persecuted for her beliefs, Mary Ward is without doubt a woman for our time.



NOVENA PRAYER FOR HEALING FROM SICKNESS

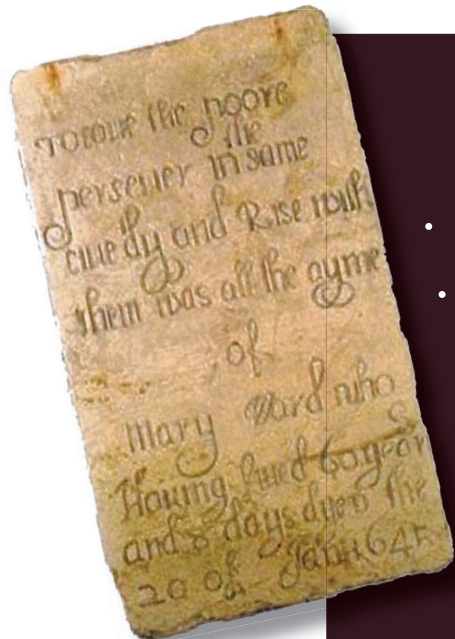
Lord, s/he,
whom you love, is sick.
If it is your will,
You can heal her/him.
Your will be done.

You have said,
'Whatever you ask the Father in my name,
He will give you.'

In your name, I ask for this grace
and I ask you
through the intercession of Mary Ward
who sought your honour
and glory in everything
and who said

'When God grants me a place in heaven,
I shall always help you.'

Glory be to the Father...



Steps towards recognition

- In 1909 Pope Pius X finally recognised Mary as the founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- In 1951, Pope Pius XII paid tribute to Mary Ward as *that incomparable woman, given to the church by Catholic England in her darkest and bloodiest hour.*
- In 1984, Cardinal Ratzinger stated, *With courage and decisiveness she opened the way in her own time for women to work in a new way in the Church. It may be said, perhaps, that precisely now Mary Ward's hour has come.*
- In 2009, Pope Benedict declared Mary Ward 'Venerable'.

Today, members of Mary Ward's Congregations, the Congregation of Jesus and Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, co-workers and thousands of students and friends are found in 45 countries across the world.

