



Pure in Heart Saint: Saint Maria Goretti

‘Blessed Are The Pure In Heart For They Shall See God.’

Matthew 5: 1 - 12



A hand with a finger pointing to a yellow sticky note. The background is a page from a Bible with text like 'The one who comes from above...' and 'The one who is above all...'.

Gather

St Maria Goretti

‘Pure In Heart’





Father,
Thank you for your
word.
Help us to listen
And show your love.
Amen

Listen

‘St Maria Goretti
Pure In Heart’

THE
HOLY BIBLE,
CONTAINING THE
OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS;
TRANSLATED OUT OF THE ORIGINAL TONGUES: AND WITH THE FORMER
TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED AND REVISED,
BY HIS MAJESTY'S SPECIAL COMMAND.
APPOINTED TO BE READ IN CHURCHES.

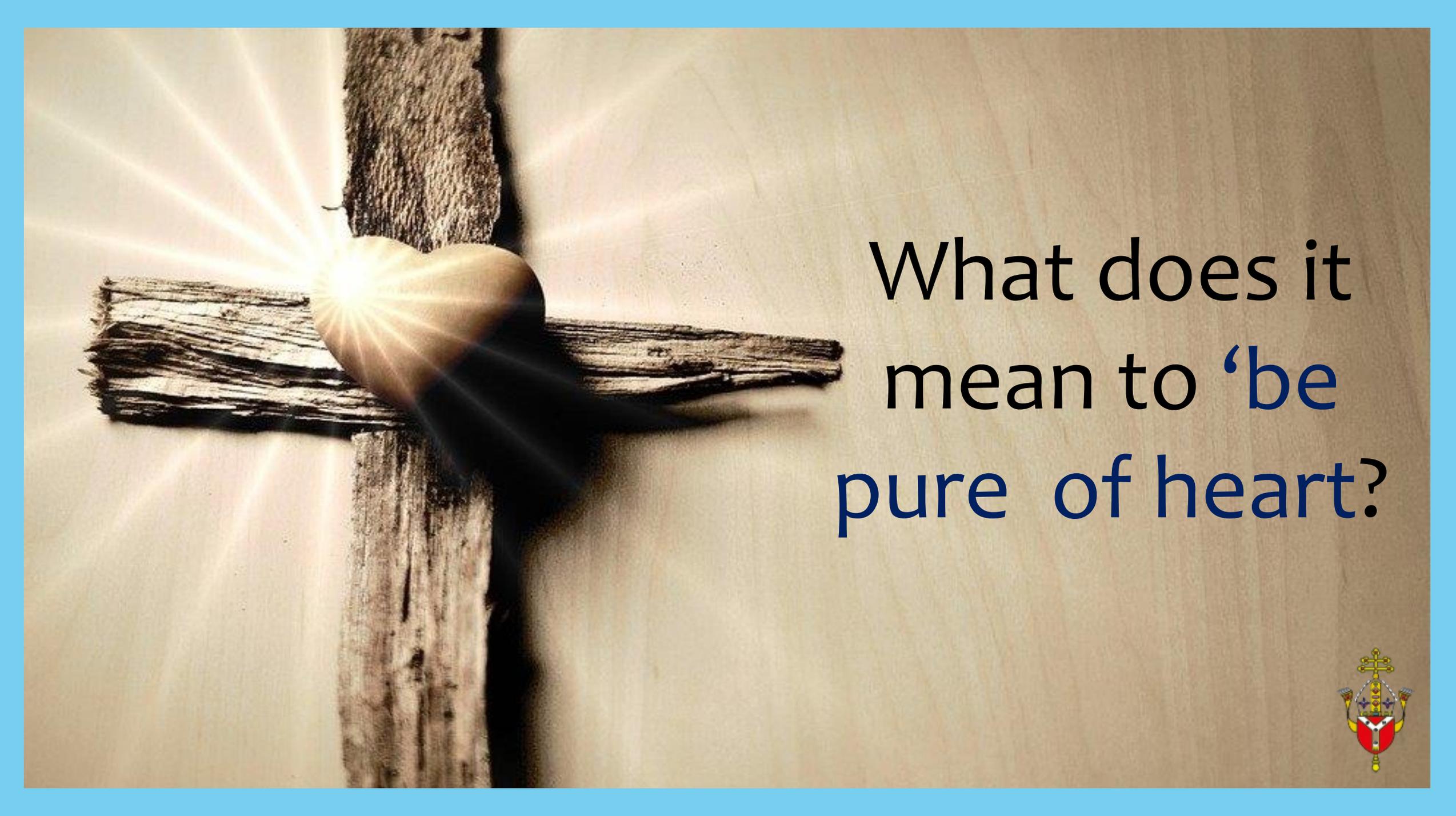


The sixth beatitude tells us...

Blessed are the pure of heart, for
they will see God.

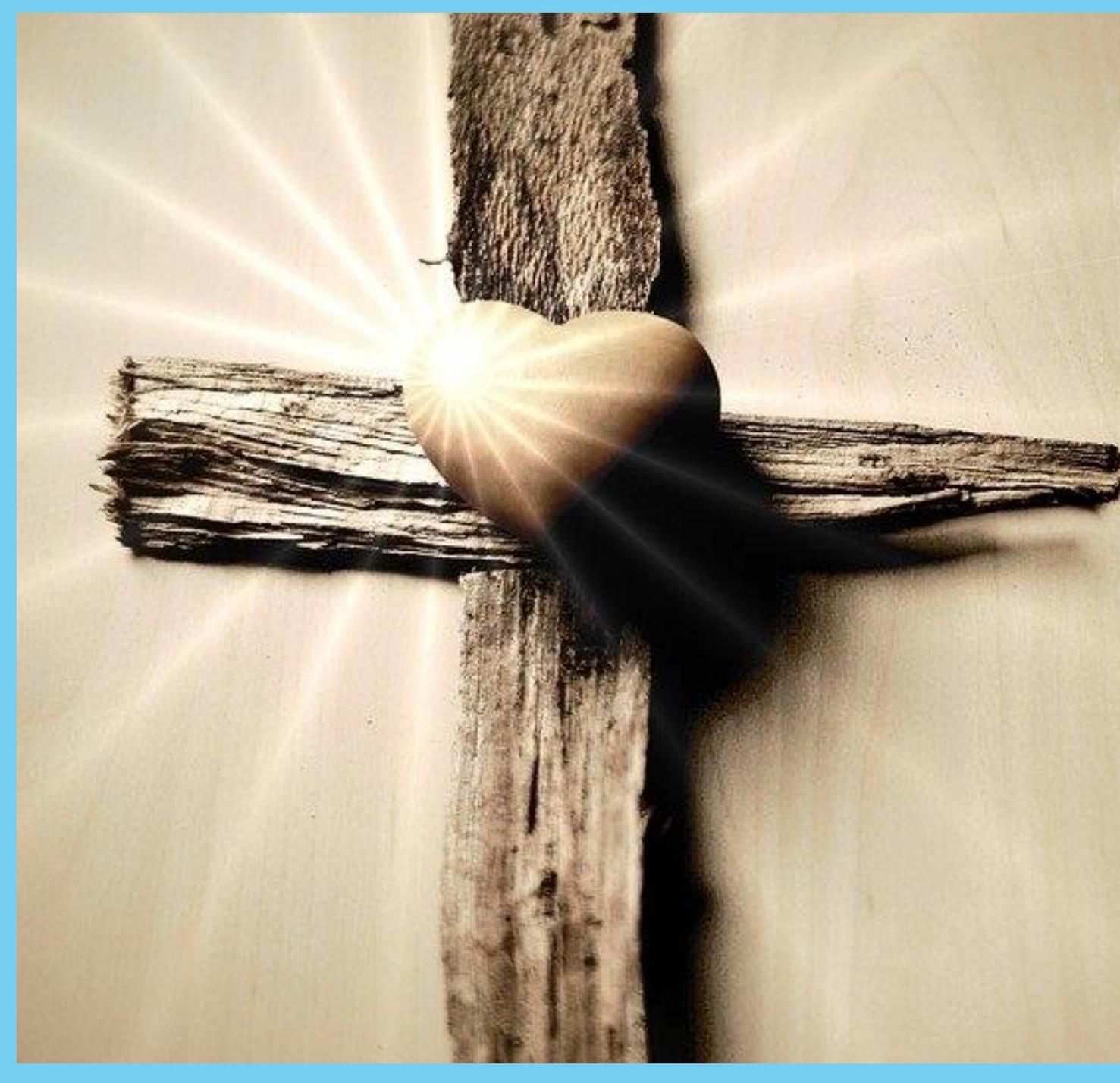
Matthew 5:8



A wooden cross is centered on the left side of the image. In the center of the cross, where the horizontal and vertical beams meet, is a glowing, golden heart. Bright rays of light emanate from the heart, spreading outwards. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

What does it
mean to 'be
pure of heart?





The word “**pure**” means to be free from sin. We can ask God to help us be **pure** and do the right thing. When we do wrong things, we can ask God to forgive us and give us a **pure heart** to do the right things.



LISTEN

St Maria Goretti, Patron Saint of Pure In Heart



The saints give us examples of how we should live a life that draws us closer to Jesus.

Saint Maria Goretti is one saint that can teach us God's message.



LISTEN

St Maria Goretti, Patron Saint of Pure In Heart



Maria was born into a Catholic family on October 16, 1890. Her family was very poor after Maria's father died, but her family's love for God never wavered.

It was a hot summer's day. Maria was sewing up a shirt while her mother and siblings were out on the farm working. A young man she knew, Alessandro, snuck up on her and began to attack her.

Alessandro stabbed her many times. A couple of days later she died from those wounds. Before she died, she forgave her attacker and promised to pray for him. She said: "I forgive Alessandro... and I want him with me in heaven forever."

Where did Maria find the courage to forgive Alessandro?



LISTEN

St Maria Goretti, Patron Saint of Pure In Heart



After Alessandro attacked Maria, he was captured and sent to prison for thirty years. At first he wasn't sorry for his sin. Then one day he had a dream. In the dream, he was sitting in a garden with Maria and she gave him a bunch of lilies. When he took them, the flowers burned his hands. Upon awakening, Alessandro was a changed man, sorry for his sins.

When Alessandro was released from prison, he found Maria's mother and asked for forgiveness. She responded, "If my daughter can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?" On June 24, 1950 Maria Goretti was declared a saint by Pope Pius XII. Alessandro was present at the beatification.

Where did Maria's mother find the strength to forgive Alessandro?



Respond



Respond

When someone does something mean to you, do you forgive them with all of your heart?

Do you remember the mean things others say or do or do you remember the kind things that others do?



Respond

St Maria was pure in heart because she fully forgave the man who had hurt her. She didn't get angry or wish bad things on him.

When Jesus talks about the heart he is talking about the place where we think and make decisions, why we do things, and our thoughts. If we keep our mind, thoughts and decisions full of good we can grow closer to God.



Respond

Loving God,
You bless us with such great love for us.
You sent your only Son to show us how to
forgive one another.
Help us to live as blessed people who strive
to be pure of heart so that we can grow
closer to You.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen



Mission

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Psalm 51:10



Mission

How can you aim to be “Pure of Heart?”

During the week think about how you can put someone else’s needs ahead of your own.

Find a quiet space to spend some time talking with God

Can you find a Bible story that shows true love and forgiveness? Share the message with someone close to you.

The name Zacchaeus means “Pure of heart.” Read the story and think about how Zacchaeus became “pure” by meeting Jesus.

Make a list of little things that you are going to try and do this week to demonstrate your true love and kindness towards family and friends.

The “Our Father” was taught to us by Jesus. Try to rewrite it using words that are meaningful to you and show your love for God.





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