
8 SATURDAY

Saturday before 2nd Sunday of MAY
OUR LADY, QUEEN of CHINA

Acts 1: 12-14
Ps 113: 1-8
John 19: 25-27

After Jesus' Ascension, His disciples returned to Jerusalem, to a kind of "retreat" in the upper room where they were staying. The Acts of the Apostles then lists all their names, and says that Mary and other women and other followers of Jesus joined them in prayer at this time, awaiting Pentecost. Soon they would all be dispersed, on the ministry and apostolate of bringing the Risen Christ to the hearts and minds of people of their time and place. A number of Jesus' chosen 12 went on to become specially associated with certain Christian communities they founded, or places they visited, countries that took them as 'patrons': for example, Peter, Andrew, James, Thomas, John. A number of those early churches have now disappeared, but the ministry those apostles began has continued. It took some centuries to reach the eastern side of Asia, and we don't now know the names of the first founders of Christian communities in this part of the world. But the link does go back to that group at prayer in Jerusalem. And for China (as for other places too) the link includes the privileged person of Mary who was there then, and has been given and received as the special patron of the country and its faithful. Though the secular title has lost its earlier meaning and become rather less reputable, we still give Mary the "Queen" title, as a mark of great honour and respect, love and devotion. As Queen of China, may she intercede for us, keep us in close relationship with Jesus, keep us united in prayer and worship with other communities all around the world, awaiting the final Pentecost

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