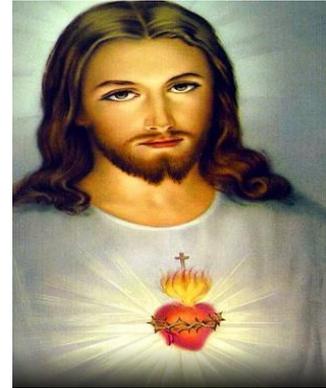


## DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

From the Compendium of the Catechism: 92-100

### DID CHRIST HAVE A TRUE HUMAN BODY?

Christ assumed a true human body by means of which the invisible God became visible. This is the reason why Christ can be represented and venerated in sacred images.



### WHAT DOES THE HEART OF JESUS EXEMPLIFY?

Jesus knew us and loved us with a human heart. His heart, pierced for our salvation, is the symbol of that infinite love with which he loves the Father and each one of us.

### WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE EXPRESSION “CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...”?

This expression means that the Virgin Mary conceived the eternal Son in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit without the cooperation of a man. The angel told her at the Annunciation that “the Holy Spirit will come upon you” (Luke 1:35).

### “... BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY”: WHY IS MARY TRULY THE MOTHER OF GOD?

Mary is truly the Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus (John 2:1, John 19:25). The One who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and became truly her Son is actually the eternal Son of God the Father. He is God Himself.

### WHAT DOES THE “IMMACULATE CONCEPTION” MEAN?

God freely chose Mary from all eternity to be the Mother of his Son. To carry out her mission she herself was *conceived immaculate*. This means that, thanks to the grace of God and in anticipation of the merits of Jesus Christ, Mary was preserved from original sin from the first instant of her conception.

### HOW DOES MARY COOPERATE IN THE DIVINE PLAN OF SALVATION?

By the grace of God Mary was kept free from every personal sin her whole life long. She is the one who is “full of grace” (Luke 1:28), “the all holy”. When the angel announced to her that she would give birth to “the Son of the Most High” (Luke 1:32), she freely gave her consent with “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5). Mary thus gave herself entirely to the person and work of her Son Jesus, espousing wholeheartedly the divine will regarding salvation.

### WHAT DOES THE VIRGINAL CONCEPTION OF JESUS MEAN?

The virginal conception of Jesus means that Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin solely by the power of the Holy Spirit without the intervention of man.

Jesus is the Son of the heavenly Father according to his divine nature and the Son of Mary according to his human nature. He is, however, truly the Son of God in both natures since there is in him only one Person who is divine.

### IN WHAT SENSE IS MARY “EVER VIRGIN”?

Mary is ever virgin in the sense that she “remained a virgin in conceiving her Son, a virgin in giving birth to him, a virgin in carrying him, a virgin in nursing him at her breast, always a virgin.” (Saint Augustine). Therefore, when the Gospels speak of the “brothers and sisters of Jesus”, they are talking about the close relations of Jesus, according to the way of speaking used in Sacred Scripture.

### IN WHAT WAY IS THE SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD OF MARY UNIVERSAL?

Mary had only one Son, Jesus, but in Him her spiritual motherhood extends to all whom He came to save. Obediently standing at the side of the new Adam that is Jesus Christ, the Virgin is the new Eve, the true mother of all the living, who with a mother’s love cooperates in their birth and their formation in the order of grace. Virgin and Mother, Mary is the figure of the Church, its most perfect realization.



*It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact [deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk) Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis.*