

Presentation Day 21 November

Presentation Day is a special day of celebration for Presentation Sisters and their colleagues and friends around the world. It is celebrated on the *Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple*. Nano was understood to have a special devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and when her religious congregation was approved by Rome in 1805, the congregation's name was changed to the *Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (pbvm)*.



The main source of the story of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple is found in some second century writings called the *Protoevangelium of James*. We read there:

When the child reached the age of three her parents, Anne and Joachim, took her to live in the temple. Joachim gathered the young girls from the neighbourhood to form an escort. Mary joyfully followed, not once looking back at her parents and the Lord God sent grace upon her. Mary danced and all the house of Israel loved her. Zacharia, the high priest, welcomed her at the entrance of the sanctuary. She dwelt day and night in the sanctuary until the age of twelve.

The story tells that in thanksgiving for the gift of their daughter, Joachim and Anne, who had been childless, brought Mary, when still a child, to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer her living in service of God.