

May 27, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

ON TO EPHEBUS

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“Above all else, sacred place is ‘storied place.’ Particular locales come to be recognized as sacred because of the stories that are told about them.”

BELDEN C. LANE, LANDSCAPES OF THE SACRED, 15

Reflection

May is traditionally dedicated to Mary by Catholics. On traveling to Ephesus, I had an opportunity to visit Mary’s house. It is located in a beautiful forested area in the mountains and, when descending, you can view the ruins of Ephesus. During first century, Ephesus was a bustling city, estimated to have 250,000 occupants and thriving Jewish and emerging Christian populations.

Not much is known about Mary’s life following the death of Jesus. We know from Acts that Mary gathered with the disciples for prayer in Jerusalem and

was most likely present during the Pentecost. But what happened after that? Some scholars believe that Mary remained in Jerusalem until she was assumed into heaven. Still others believe that John, who was commissioned by Jesus to care for Mary like a son, took her to Ephesus when he began evangelizing in the Roman province of Asia.

One legend has it that John and Mary escaped Jerusalem and stayed in a cave before moving to a home on Bulbul Mountain in what is now Turkey. The cave has been a Christian sacred site since the first or second century. The House of the Virgin Mary, a small stone structure, is a pilgrimage site visited by both Christians and Muslims. The House was found after Anne Catherine Emmerich experienced a vision about the location of the house, and while not authenticated by the Church, it has been visited by Popes Paul VI and Benedict the XVI. Sacred sites, holy remembering and assemblies.



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For Pondering

- Does May or any month of the year have spiritual or religious significance for you?
- How do you celebrate these special times of the year?

For Prayer

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for He has looked with favor on His humble servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed,
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.*

*He has mercy on those who fear Him
in every generation.*

*He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the humble.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of His servant Israel
for He has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise He made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen, Alleluia.*

LUKE 1:46-55, MODERN INTERPRETATION, ADAPTED, THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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