



**Mary, Undoer of Knots  
Advent, 2021  
St. Cronan Parish**

*We all have knots, or deficiencies in our hearts, and we go through difficulties. God wants us to trust Our Lady, undoer of knots, to entrust to Her the knots of our sins, the tangles of our miseries that prevent us from uniting ourselves with God, to allow Her to undo them and bring us to Her son Jesus,  
Especially for the knots of  
Climate Change, Clericalism, Prejudice, and within Families.*

*Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio  
Pope Francis  
December 8, 2011*

## The History

The devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots, began in Germany in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Wolfgang Langenmantel and Sophie Imhoff married in 1612, in the traditional ceremony of the time, in which the Bride and Groom's hands were bound together in a white ribbon as part of the ritual. After about three years, their marriage suffered from a lack of mutual understanding and frequent arguments, so much so that the couple was considering divorce. Each time they argued, Sophie would tie a knot in their wedding ribbon.

Wolfgang went on pilgrimage to the monastery of Ingolstadt where Fr. Jakob Rem promoted devotion to Mary. He and Wolfgang prayed with intensity to ask for the grace of reconciliation between the two spouses. Sophie gave Fr. Rem her wedding ribbon, full of knots, asking the priest for special prayers for their marriage. Legend is that, as Fr. Jakob prayed to Mary that the knots of the marriage be made smooth, the knots of the ribbon fell loose, leaving it as white as it was on Wolfgang and Sophie's wedding day. The marriage of Wolfgang and Sophie was renewed and the spouses lived together in communion and happiness to the end of their days. The moral miracle of reconciliation and forgiveness between the two spouses endured.

Wherever forgiveness seems impossible for human beings – hindered by hatred, rancor, resentment, and pride – only God's loving intervention through Our Lady's invaluable intercession can make reconciliation possible.

Fr. Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, fell in love with this devotion while on a study trip to Augsburg, and decided to bring home the image of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, to his parishioners in Argentina, where the devotion spread. As Pope, he has entrusted Mary with many of the knots his ministry encounters.

The Virgin Mary, spouse of Joseph and Mother of Jesus, fully understands the problems and difficulties of a family. Let us turn to her to obtain the virtues necessary so that our families may follow the footsteps of the Holy Family of Nazareth, where Jesus found a safe and welcoming home.

This Advent Season, the Community of St. Cronan calls on Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, to journey with us this Advent Season as we focus on one social problem each week: the knot of Climate Change, the knot of Clericalism, the knot of Prejudice, and the knot within Families. We ask that our Lady empower us to take action on each of these knots as she teaches us to reach out to others each day.

## Advent, 2021

This Advent Season, the Community of St. Cronan calls on Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, to journey with us as we focus on one social problem each week:

First Week of Advent: The knot of Climate Change

*“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,  
and on earth nations will be in dismay,  
perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.”*

Second Week of Advent: The knot of Clericalism

*“Sisters and Brothers,  
I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you,  
because of your partnership for the gospel  
from the first day until now.”*

Third Week of Advent: The knot of Prejudice,

*“The crowds asked John the Baptist, ‘What should we do?’”  
He said to them in reply,  
‘Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.  
And whoever has food should do likewise.’”*

Fourth Week of Advent: The knot within Families

*“Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my God should come to me?”*

We ask that our Lady empower us to take action on each of these knots as she teaches us to reach out to others each day.

## Prayers to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots

### The Supplication

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair Love,  
Mother who has never abandoned a child who cries for help,  
Mother whose hands work without ceasing for her children so beloved,  
Because they are impelled by divine love  
And by the infinite mercy that issues from your heart,  
Turn to me your gaze of compassion.

Look at the many “knots” of my life.  
You know my desperation and my pain.  
You know how these “knots” paralyze me, Mary,  
Mother charged by God with untying the “knots” of the lives of your children.  
I place the ribbon of my life in your hands.  
In your hands there is no “knot” that may not be untied.

Almighty Mother, with you grace and power of intercession  
With your Son Jesus, my savior,  
Receive today this “knot” (of Climate Change, Clericalism, Prejudice, in Families).  
For the glory of God I ask you to untie it and to untie it always.  
I hope in you.

You are the only consoler that God has given me  
You are the strength of my precarious powers,  
The richness of my miseries,  
The liberation of all that prevents me from being with Christ.  
Accept my plea.  
Preserve me, guide me, protect me, be my refuge.  
Mary, undoer of knots, prayer for me.