

Sunday 15th August 2021

Mary, Mother of our Lord



Today's Gospel reading is the text of Mary's Magnificat – her song of joy on being chosen as the mother of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Luke 1. 46-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

🤔 Did you know that this is sung or said every day in our churches at the service of Evening Prayer or Evensong?

We usually think of Mary at Christmastime, when we hear the story of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem. Today is a day when we have the opportunity to remember Mary for herself and her amazing response and obedience to God.

The picture at the top is a modern, but traditional, depiction of Mary, as we tend to think of her. The picture below, of a traditionally-dressed Middle-eastern young woman, is perhaps closer to how the real Mary might have looked.



*19th century photograph
of a young Middle-eastern
girl in traditional dress.
From womeninthebible.net*

Mary was a young Jewish girl – probably in her mid-teens - living in Nazareth when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her and announced that she was to be the mother of the Son of God. Her amazing response, "Let it be to me according to your word", showed her natural sense of obedience to God and her worthiness to be the bearer of the Word made flesh.

Mary nursed Jesus as a baby and, together with Joseph, kept him safe when the Holy Family had to flee from King Herod. She taught Jesus as he grew up and would have played a big part in his knowledge of the Jewish scriptures. Later, Mary appears in the Gospels as one of Jesus's followers, sometimes with his brothers and sisters. We are told that Mary was at the foot of the cross, fulfilling the prophecy made by Simeon in the Temple, when Jesus was 40 days old, that she would have to endure great sadness as the mother of Jesus.

This day, 15th August, is now celebrated by the Church as the major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a day to give thanks for Mary's astonishing faith in God and for her courage and obedience to God.

Gabriel Told About Jesus Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L I S M T N U L L A F A C M D
U N T A L I Q U A T U E R O T
L O R R R S K I N G D O M T O
N U L Y A M A O N S E Q U H S
N S N S E Q U N S C I L L E N
M E S S A G E X G R I R I R R
L R O R E M O L O E S I T E R
S V M I N E N D R E L A T V E
I A N A T B G A B R I E L O D
T N O N S E D A U G I A M V E
L T I Q U A T N L N S E C T E
T U E D O L O R E I E L I Q U
Z E L I Z A B E T H L I T V U
L A O R E M O L O R S E T E R
N A Z A R E T H R E T A E V E

ANGEL
ELIZABETH

GABRIEL
GALILEE

KINGDOM
MARY

MESSAGE
MOTHER

NAZARETH
SERVANT



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