

The Magnificat

In the first three verses of Mary's song, the Magnificat, Our Lady gives thanks for God's action in her life. When she says, 'my soul doth magnify the Lord' she wants to glorify and make great the name of the Lord, who has chosen to work through a lowly virgin who will from now on be referred to as 'Blessed', because of her willingness to embrace the divine plan. In verse 4 of the Magnificat, we are reminded of God's mercy to all those who fear Him which means that we are not to try to tame Him into something that suits us. Then we hear how God turns upside down the values of the world. The humble and meek are lifted high and those who mighty are put down. The hungry are those who longed for the coming of the Messiah and those who hunger for Him today. The condemned rich are those who have worldly notions of power and wealth and think they have no need of God's Messiah. The final line reminds us that all those centuries ago God made a covenant with Abraham that He would guard, bless and cherish His people, and through Abraham's descendants all the nations of the earth would bless themselves. This blessing is now fulfilled with the impending birth of the Messiah. Everything longed and hoped for in the Old Testament is now to be fulfilled. What wonderful news!

Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Saturday 15th August 2026

The Assumption

Gospel: Luke 1: 39 – 56



The opening chapters of St Luke's Gospel tell the stories of the priest Zechariah, the patriarch Joseph, the old, barren woman Elizabeth, and the virgin whose name is Mary. Each one finds themselves at the heart of God's plan to save and heal his people, as the divine pattern is woven in human lives. Mary responds with faith to the message of the Angel, and journeys with haste to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth, to whom God has shown his favour, for she bears a child in her old age. Their meeting is one of joy and thanksgiving, as John the Baptist in his mother's womb leaps for joy, for the very Saviour of the World is at hand, carried in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary responds with the song of praise that we know as the Magnificat. Recited by the Church every day at Evensong, Mary invites us to magnify the Lord, to proclaim his greatness, for all that he has done, whilst recalling our own littleness. Mary's faith is rooted in obedience to God's will and his word. May we know the holy joy of Mary in God's coming near in Christ.