



Worship at Home 15th August 2021 The Blessed Virgin Mary

Opening Prayers:

The Lord our God Almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice and give him glory

Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray.

Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth;

Amen

Invitation to confession:

We have done what is wrong in the Lord's sight and chosen what displeased him. Yet as a mother comforts her child, so shall the Lord himself comfort us. So let us come to him who knows our every deed and thought.

Lord, for the times when we have forgotten to love you:

Lord have mercy

Lord, for the times when we have forgotten to love others:

Christ have mercy.

Lord, we thank you for never forgetting to love us:

Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy upon you,

forgive your sins and bring you to everlasting light. Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

Almighty God, who looked on the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**

Gospel Reading:

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Reflection on the Gospel. Today we celebrate the festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the name which honours this church. In many Catholic countries in Europe, today is a holiday, with shops and business closed; Mary is venerated as the Mother of Jesus and statues and pictures of her are displayed more prominently than in this country, which can catch some of us unaware when on holiday abroad, especially in Spain. However, it's hard to be taken unawares by the Gospel of Luke which we have just heard. It is a passage we hear every Christmas as part of the nativity story, and it is a prayer clergy say as part of our daily prayer. Perhaps its familiarity allows us to become blasé so it fails to have the impact it should have on us. The song continues the great Jewish theme of God's action in the wider world, yet takes it down to just one person. A poor woman in a world where men dominate, yet Mary's reflection on the difficult and irregular situation she finds herself in is surprising. She is young and unmarried. She is betrothed to Joseph so to a certain extent, her life is already planned, then she experiences the first fruits of the salvation promised to her people, and she finds herself expected to give birth to the Son of God, no less. With no hesitation and complete trust, she says yes and commits herself to God's call. Her faith and trust is overwhelming and she is a focus and an example to us all. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Be still and Pray: for the needs of the world and your family, friends and community. Her majesty the Queen and her family. The work of the Government trying to make the right decisions for everyone. Those who suffer discrimination, poverty or violence & those who suffer for their faith. We especially pray for the people on the St Marks estate in Wellingborough and Fr. Ben who leads them. Pray for comfort and peace for all who are ill or grieving the loss of a loved one. In quiet reflection pray for the souls of those who have died recently, and those you have loved, but now hold dearly in your hearts. Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the glory and the power are yours forever and ever. Amen

Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Reverend Irene