

Our Faith – The Magnificat

In 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.

We are reminded of God's mercy to all those who fear Him. The word fear does not mean that we are to be scared of God, but that we do not try and tame Him into something that suits us.

The humble and meek are to be lifted high and those who mighty are to be 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 is a line of real joy. 'He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever'. This promise is now fulfilled with the impending birth of the Messiah. Everything longed and hoped for in the Old Testament is now to be fulfilled.

Collect for the Assumption

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Friday 15th August 2025 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Gospel: Luke 1: 39 – 56



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 leaps for joy in his mother's womb, for the very Saviour of the World is at hand, carried in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary responds with the song of praise that we know as the Magnificat. Recited by the Church every day at Evening Prayer, it echoes the words of Hannah in 1 Samuel, who has also borne a child despite her barrenness.

Mary invites us to magnify the Lord, to proclaim his greatness, for all that he has done, whilst remembering our own littleness. Mary's faith, which will take her to the depths of sorrowing despair at the foot of her Son's Cross, is rooted in obedience to God's will and to His word. May we know with Mary the joy that is God's coming to us in Christ.