

25 March 2020 – The Feast of the Annunciation

Father Paul, Deacon Kevin and I wish you all a very happy Feast on this day – the Annunciation of the Lord - It is a beautiful sunny day and the birds are singing and the Church rejoices that we celebrate the beginning of our Christian life. God becomes man in the womb of the Virgin Mary as a result of Mary's "Yes" to God.

Mary's answer to the angel has allowed God to enter our world and our lives.

We turn to Mary in our hour of need for she is the Mother of God and our Mother too. She is now interceding for the whole human family that we may be delivered from all our afflictions. Let us unite our prayers with hers.

This Sunday England will be re-dedicated as the Dowry of Mary. It is so fitting that this should take place in the difficult circumstances we are now facing Let us have every confidence in her desire to help and save us.

Thank you for all that you are doing at this time to offer support and comfort and hope to one another in the simplest of ways, perhaps by a phone call or message or a prayer. Today we might say the Angelus for one another:

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,
Your Grace into our hearts;
that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,
your Son by the message of an angel,
so by His passion and cross
we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord.
Amen.