

New Year 2011/2012

Mary mother of the Lord

New beginnings, new life, new start. The church also begins at this time, of Jesus birth because he is the new Adam. We are given a chance to examine our lives and step forward into the new year, by inviting the Holy Spirit to shine his light, his truth into our lives. He give us the courage to see our sin and how we have fallen short, the mistakes we may have made during the past year, but we also see how to penetrate more deeply the mysteries of our faith. May the beauty of the Gospel, the victory of the cross, the power of your blood and the hope of eternal life touch my life today.

Mary the mother of the Lord whose feast it is today, is traditionally portrayed with her son, the Madonna, she shows us more than anyone else, how to receive the Lord. She is the model of a perfect disposition of heart and mind. Day by day she will show us what it is to welcome Jesus by allowing him to transform and direct our lives. Even as she held him in her arms, he was directing and leading the scene. The shepherds came to welcome him and Mary presents Jesus to them, as she does to us too, showing us the way to him.

We may ask why was Jesus born of a virgin? To establish, by this unique example that he was inaugurating a new humanity. He is man, universal man, not just a man. He is the epitome of the human race. He is the spiritual unity of all generations. He does not emerge as a link in a chain. He is the second Adam. He brings about a new creation. The Virgin had to be prepared for this mission, and had to collaborate in it. She had to give Jesus to humanity. The child did not belong to her, but to God and to humanity. Her maternity was a gift to the whole of humanity, and by her consent to God she gave her liberty to God's will and purpose. She is the second Eve, redeemed from sin by her own Son before he was born. She covers all mothers with honour, because she has in her person achieved through her own self-giving all that God asked of

her, In his purpose of redeeming sinful selfish humanity.

So many of our images of Mary, the famous Pieta, Mary the mother cradling her dead son, at the foot of the cross, or the mother cradling her new baby in the crib. They all show how she has a unique and unsurpassed role in the church.

Today we praise and thank her, and share the blessings that were given to Moses in the book of Numbers. They declare that we are made children of God, by St Paul in Galatians, such that we can call God our Father..the first to realise this are the shepherds. We are called to live out this new reality, this new creation..to make the world a peaceful loving place..

Mary treasured all these things in her heart. That means that she was a spiritual person, directed by God's spirit, praying that he would protect and nurture her child to be the person that God wanted him to be..we are blessed people through her love and care for him.

The humility of God, to visit us in this way, shows us that it is his world, he has the initiative. We are in his hands, and Mary knows this and trusts him. God has made this world his home. Despite our sin and destructiveness, and our disdain for the beauty of his creation. He will redeem it through his Son, and restore it and transform it despite our poverty of spirit. There is a promise there In the Incarnation. There is hope for us, if we follow the model of Mary, saying Yes to God, collaborating In his purpose.

Traditionally we make a promise or wish at the beginning of the year. What is your wish today, through prayer and meditation to make a conscious gift of ourselves to God, that he will direct and care for us though his spirit of love, and help us to bring about a more just and peaceful world. To give that others may live.

(pace Walk with me/Magnificat/Advent)