

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

8th September, 2021

MAGNIFICAT

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our father,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

LITANY OF PRAISE

Holy is your name, O Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified, he shared his glory.
The word of the Lord.

REFLECTION: (Louis Evely)

Mary was sixteen, busy with household chores and engaged to a craftsman, when an angel appeared to her and announced a whole series of things that were hard to believe: she'd be a mother and remain a

virgin; she'd bear a son – a saviour who'd redeem the world, an incomparable being who'd rule eternally.

Mary's reaction to this speech revealed a humility that was infinitely truer than anything we could ever've imagined. We think we're humbler than she because we realise we're sinners; still, the very fact that we're sinners is precisely what keeps us from being humble. Humility consists in knowing the distance – the infinite distance – between God and ourselves. The Blessed Virgin had a very accurate notion of Him and, so, was infinitely humble. Admitting that we're sinners, on the other hand, means knowing only the distance – the altogether finite distance – between a sinless creature and a sinful one. Furthermore, and this is the whole point, our sins screen God from us, depriving us of Him and blinding us where He's concerned.

Compared to us, Mary was perfectly humble; and that's why she raised no questions. We would've gasped, "Can't be! That'll never work! I don't feel I'm ready yet. Wait just a little – say, two or three more retreats – till I put on the finishing touches." Mary didn't do that. In all simplicity, she thought, "God's great enough and good enough, generous and powerful enough to accomplish such things in His poor handmaid. In a word, He's God, and, so, I'm not surprised. Knowing only ourselves, we'd have concluded He couldn't do anything with us; but, knowing God, she was sure he could do anything He wanted. Hence, Mary acquiesced, once and for all, and said, "Do with me as You wish."

Her fiat was the fiat of Gethsemane – the very same: "Not my will, but Yours"; the fiat we'll repeat in the Our Father when we're a bit more like her: "May your will be done!" We're all required to reach the level where we can say, "Do what You want with me."

INTERCESSIONS:

Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

CLOSING PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, as you filled Mary with grace and made her the mother of our Saviour, renew our faith, hope and love so that we may grow in his image and likeness and share with her in the joy of heaven. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.