

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



**St Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede
Keeping in Touch with our Church Family**

Sunday 15th August

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty God,
who looked upon 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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Paul reflects on the incarnation.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God

Galatians 4:4-7

Mary Praises God in the words we know as the Magnificat

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 forever."

Luke 1:46-55

A Reflection on the Motherhood of Mary by the Revd Preb Paul Brown.

What qualities do you look for in a mother? It is one of the most important roles that anyone can fulfil in life and it isn't an easy question to answer. I spent a little time thinking about how I would answer that question before finally resorting to Google's suggestions. There were, as you would expect, lots of alternatives, but I rather liked this one, it made six suggestions:

- set Boundaries And Rules, children need boundaries to thrive.
- be Respectful. Respect is two sided.
- be Supportive And Loving, it can be tough growing up.
- be Patient.
- be ready to forgive.
- give quality time.

I am sure that each of us could add to that list from our own experience and as I began to think about this week's reflection I began to think about Mary, Jesus mum and the qualities she would have needed after Gabriel's famous visit. St Luke tells us only a little about Mary before the archangel's visit, she lived in Nazareth, she was betrothed and a virgin. Probably a young teenager she showed tremendous courage when her visitor told her that she was to become the mother of a very special child. It was the beginning of the adventure of motherhood with all its ups and downs. Luke recounts how in the midst of a census and in a strange village with next to no help Mary birthed Jesus nursing him as an infant. Matthew tells us how she carried him in to exile in

Egypt just one step ahead of Herod's murderous soldiers. The Gospel's tell us only a little about Jesus early years but it is safe to assume that Mary, with some help from Joseph guided him as he grew from a toddler into a teenager, and from a teenager into manhood. Mary modelling and reflecting some of those values that would become and an essential part of his ministry. Support that was there not only at the marriage at Cana but also at the foot of the cross. Support that continued after Jesus' resurrection when Mary is there with his friends at the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Luke tells us that Gabriel saluted Mary with the words "Greetings favoured one, the Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28), Support and favour that enabled her to be a role model for her son and so, for her trust, for her faithfulness and for the qualities of her motherhood, we give thanks.

Paul

Prayers during the Week

Sunday

Pray that we may respond in challenging situations with praise to God. (Luke 46:1)

Monday

Pray for all who are suffering from long Covid, and for all researching the condition.

Tuesday

Pray for all suffering from storms and fires and other consequences of global warming.

Wednesday

Pray for a resolution to the conflict in Afghanistan and for the humanitarian needs.

Thursday

Pray for those facing long waits for hospital treatment.

Friday

Pray for the churches of the Team as we move out of lockdown.

Saturday

Pray for agreement in Northern Ireland, especially over problems following Brexit.

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Lisa, Joy Waistell, Sarah Aldridge, Heather Gent, Joan, Geoff Truby, Delma Scriven, Maureen Boyce, Olly Cadman, Miriam Hackett and Barrie Taylor

Those who have died

Neil Walker, Joan Hawthorn, William Churm and Dorothy Brewerton

Please send requests for prayers to the Parish Office.

This weeks Services

At St Benedict's

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

Tuesday 9.30am Holy Communion

At the Ven Bede

9.00am Parish Communion

Monday 10.30am Little Fish

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion.

Don't forget to book your place with Hilary for the Sunday Services by 12noon on Saturday either by email hilmoore@gmail.com or telephone 892856.

There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on You Tube this Sunday.

Relaxing the Covid 19 Regulations

Our Church Council have discussed how we should adapt what we do in church to reflect the relaxation in the Covid 19 regulations.

Following advice from the Government and the Diocese and given the rise both in infections and deaths we have decided on a cautious and gradual relaxation. More details are posted on our website.

There are Baptisms at St Benedict's at 3.00pm and 4.00pm next Sunday.

Prayer Group

Our Tuesday evening Prayer Group will meet at Holy Cross Bobbington on 31st August starting at 7pm. Please let Sue Watson know if you hope to join us.

