

Take 2 with Jesus

Daily Reflections on the Sunday Gospel

Week beginning Sunday 15th August

Jesus shows us, in Mary, true glory.

This week's reflections are based on the Gospel reading for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Lk 1:39-56). Further reflections on this Gospel can be found at <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au/sunday/show/595/gospel>.

Sunday

*Mary said,
'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord'.
(Lk 1:47)*

Mary really listened to the praises given her by the angel (Hail Mary full of grace...) and Elizabeth (Blessed are you among women...) and took them into her heart. In proclaiming her own greatness, she knew that she was really proclaiming the goodness and love of God towards her.

Loving God, let me be like Mary in accepting and rejoicing in the great love you have for me and your desires to make me great in that love.

Continue your prayer through this day pondering on the gifts you have received from God.

Monday

*Mary said,
'...and my spirit exults in God my Saviour.'
(Lk 1:47)*

Mary's joy was certain because she found her joy in God. She would have enjoyed nature, loved the people around her, delighted in the new life that Elizabeth was bearing. She would have sought and found goodness in every situation. Even beneath the Cross, she would have reached out in love to those around her who were also grieving.

*Loving Jesus, in every situation, your mother sought and found the grace of God.
Open my mind and heart to exult in you, in all situations.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by pondering some of the strange situations in which God has shown his mysterious ways.

Tuesday

*Mary said,
'...because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.'
(Lk 1:48)*

Humility isn't a harping on our weakness and failure, a raking over what is wrong with us. True humility recognises the greatness of God and how God wants to make our lives rich and great in love - if only we would get our puny egos out of the way. This day celebrates the fulfillment of Mary's humility – recognised by heaven and earth.

Loving Jesus, as I rejoice in Mary's blessedness, let me put aside the negativity of my ego and rejoice in your love for her.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by enjoying the model of humility that Mary has given.

Wednesday

*Mary said,
'Holy is his name
And his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.'
(Lk 1:49-50)*

We tend to think of holiness as something aloof from the messiness of human lives. Just the opposite: mercy is the fulfillment of God's holiness. Mercy blooms in the midst of grief, pain, failure...and even sin, for those who turn to God in awe, knowing God is the one who saves, the one who wraps the needy in his own holiness.

Loving God, when I am in pain, feeling a failure, having sinned, may I turn to you in awe, knowing your holiness can transform the mess of my life.

Continue your prayer through this day by pondering on a time of failure when you knew the holiness of God.

Thursday

*Mary said,
'He has shown the power of his arm,
He has routed the proud of heart.'
(Lk 1:51)*

Pride and an arrogant ego are the greatest enemies of the grace of God. In essence they say, I don't need anyone's help and I will take what I want in spite of anyone's need. They cut us off from love, and ultimately life. The only antidote this is humility – both with ourselves and in dealing with arrogant people. Not a humility that lets pride flourish but a humility that stands up and confronts, because God is with us.

Loving Jesus, when I face pride and arrogance, in myself or others, let your Spirit give me wisdom and strength to be humble.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by wondering how being humble can also make you strong in the face of pride and arrogance.

Friday

*Mary said,
'The hungry he has filled with good things,
The rich sent empty away.'
(Lk 1:53)*

Reversal is at the heart of the Christian Mysteries – God becomes human, an ignominious death is the pathway to eternal life, humility is the true source of glory. God gives the weak and humble a deep sense of fulfillment while the rich are not satisfied in their wealth.

Loving Jesus, let me recognise how often your ways are the opposite of human expectation. Let me have a share in the humility of Mary and see where you are present in the 'hungry' places of my life.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by pondering where you hunger in spirit and ask God to feed you there.

Saturday

*Mary said,
'He has come to the help of Israel his servant mindful of his mercy,
...of his mercy to Abraham and his descendant forever.'
(Lk 1:54-55)*

In the painting *The Assumption* by Botticini, we see the angels and the saints from all ages, circled around Mary as she enters heaven to be greeted by her Son. If you look closely, they seem to be breaking into dance, so great is their exuberation. This is a heaven full of diverse people, full of joy. A place where I would like to be.

Loving Jesus, give me the wisdom to sometimes wonder on the glory that will be ours when we come to heaven.

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day wondering on how good it is to rejoice with others.