

BVM 2023

The Gospel is a poetical expression of the nature of faith.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be the one who loves me: and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the greatest expression we have of that participation.

When we look to the scriptures we look to the theological understanding of the Almighty

When we look to the Blessed Virgin Mary we look to the lived experience of faith.

The Gospels begin with the incredible acceptance of this peasant girl.

What terror must have shook her thoughts as she realised she had conceived.

What social pressures must she have endured.

What power of vision must she have needed to see beyond the crisis.

She told Joseph

She lived with what she did not understand

That stage of the crisis passed

Faith is not the solution to crisis, but the means, the capacity to approach, accept and confront the consequences.

Where the Gospel does not dwell are the years that Jesus grew to maturity in the home of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is where the extraordinary will have appeared ordinary.

Where daily life of meals, and maintenance and basic care had the capacity to disguise the wonder of the Virgin Birth, and this child who spoke to scholars in flurried gown

But the wonder was not tamed by the everyday events of life

Christ fully human learned lessons of love from this woman

The Christ child knew the security of her goodness

She had given birth to the babe

In life now she liberated a nature beyond even her comprehension.

Her faith not the solution to crisis, but the means, the capacity to approach, accept, and confront the consequences.

Then at the conclusion to the Gospels we have the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the foot of the cross.

This Mother as a consequence of her relationship with the divine, could share the suffering of her son.

This women had the audacity to live with the beauty of compassion even in the times of utter desolation.

The horror of the cross did not drive from her the goodness of life's gift. Indeed in open contradiction, it was a place where that goodness was celebrated.

In this death, and indeed in this resurrection her faith not the solution to crisis, but the means, the capacity to approach, accept, and confront the consequences.

The Blessed Virgin Mary has a special place in the life of the Church

In her find the means and example to face crisis

In her find the means and example to see beyond the blinding veil of the ordinary

In her find the hope to sustain you, when enduring the life sapping cancer, of desolation

Holy Mary Mother of God

Pray for us sinners now

And at the hour of our death

Amen