

## **Advent Mary Visitation**

The Blessed Virgin Mary is at the heart of the Roman Catholic Faith.

In Art. In Music Hymns. In terms of feast Days and celebrations there is a great deal of fuss made.

This contrasts dramatically with the gentle simplicity of the lived Gospel

The place of Mary in the Gospel is not one of dramatic statements

The place of Mary in the Gospel is not one of forced status

The place of Mary in the Gospel is one of simple kindness

At the marriage feast of Cana they ran out of wine

Mary felt the embarrassment of the family

About to be shamed in front of the whole community

So she has a quiet word with her son

A quiet gentle word

You do not need grand dramatic gestures

But speak quietly and with sincerity with those you love

The place of Mary in the Gospel is one of simple courage

She conceived the Christ as a single mother

No doubt confused bewildered

At that point in young life the challenge was intense

She trusted to Gods love

With a powerful courageous acceptance of the reality

You do not need grand dramatic gestures

But have the courage to accept the reality and move on

The place of Mary in the Gospel is one of simple faithfulness

She stood beneath the cross of her crucified son

This mother felt the deep pain, and fear, and loss.

With faithful love she shared the death

Powerless and intensely beautiful

She gave everything in the midst of this desolation

You do not need grand dramatic gestures

But have the faithfulness to give to those you love your whole heart

Blessed is she who believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

So it is the Christmas season

The secular world encourages you to have the biggest

To have the best

The most expensive

To express excess

But for real love you do not need dramatic gestures

A gentle word of deeply felt kindness

The courage to see through the challenge of life

The faithfulness to share even in the death of those entrusted to you

Hail Mary full of grace

The Lord is with thee

Blessed art thou amongst women

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.