

Saying “Yes” to God

Through Mary’s Divine Conception

For me Mary portrays a person with a simplistic and serene life. One I can well imagine her skipping with wild freedom through the seasons. Singing sweet songs. Reciting the psalms and scripture. A life filled with the fragrance of flowers, herbs and baking. Animals wandering loose though never straying far. Perhaps a wild child that did not want to be calmed. Day dreaming of her future with her sweetheart Joseph. Thinking through her wedding plans. Sewing her wedding dress which will be adorn with fresh flowers. A Mary taking rest from daily tasks. Laying on her back. Watching the birds fly in and out of passing clouds. Mary loved with passion God and His creation.

Everything about Mary embraces innocence.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said



to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month

for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant for the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

[Luke 1:26-38]

We do not know where this encounter took place. The first picture has her walking outside. This picture inside a building. Perhaps her home.



Wherever Mary was, she was alone and expected everything to be as it was yesterday. And the day before that. And the day before that.

On this day came an encounter that changed the course of her life.

Mary's faith trusts the impossible. A faith that knows God is. God's Presence is everywhere. God fills the spaces. God comes even when we least expect.

Mary saying yes to God shows us a faith that believes beyond human language or scientific reasoning. A faith in which something once hidden will be revealed.

This Advent is waiting for God beyond the usual pattern of life.

This year Mary's Advent message is:

Keep faith alive each day so when God comes you will be ready to say;

Yes

here I am, let my life be according to your will