

# ADVENT: MARY



## WORD OF THE WEEK

LUKE 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come down upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with it's shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswomen Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left.



## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

**Lord, let Mary's response to you be a constant example to us. Help us to be more sensitive and understanding to your call, more open to it. To agree without hesitation, so that we might more fully, do your work in our world. Amen.**

# AN UNEXPECTED GUEST

Unexpected guests who arrive on our doorstep can be occasions of joy or panic- it all depends on how prepared we are. If the house is tidy, the fridge is full of food, and a guest room ready then there is no problem when the surprise visitor arrives. However if the house is not ready, the cupboards empty, guests may feel unwelcome and we will be embarrassed.

During Advent we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
If we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' birth we will appreciate Christmas all the more.

Advent is our time for preparation, we should aim to be ready so that Jesus will find a welcome reception in our hearts and in our world.

But how do we prepare for Advent?  
Talk to the person next to you about ways you think we can prepare properly for Christmas.

It must have been a great shock for a young, poor, unmarried woman to be visited by an angel and told she was going to have a baby. Yet not once did she complain. Instead she accepted what was told to her. How willing are we to follow instruction? Do we agree to things that are unusual to us? Or can we be selfish at times and do our own thing? How often do we listen to what God is telling us? And would we follow his instruction anyway?

God calls us in different ways on many different occasions. Life asks many things of us. We are pressed on all sides from family, friends, school, to do what we ought. How do we respond?

God asks something of us during the holy season of Advent: to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming. Let us not shy away, but meet the challenge head on. Let us say "yes" to God on this day as Mary did.



During Advent we are called to gradually become more and more aware of God, present in our lives. Like Mary did, we aim to realise that Christ is within us. Christ is with us. Christ is all around us.

Take a moment of silence to invite Jesus into your heart. Tell him he is welcome, and you wish to know more about him.



COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS  
([CLICK HERE](#))

PREPARE HIM ROOM  
([CLICK HERE](#))

WHAT IS ADVENT? GANGNAM STYLE  
([CLICK HERE](#))



## ADVENT APPEAL

**Advent Appeal Week One**  
This week we are looking for you to donate socks, underwear, hats, gloves, and scarves.

**A Prayer for our Advent Appeal:**  
Let us be thankful for all the good things that we have, but help us to be willing to give wisely this Advent. May our lives be a gift to those around us. Amen.



"At Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.