



Wednesday 8th September 2021

## The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Gospel

Mt 1:18-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*She has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

### Refectio**n** by Fr John Purnell

This Gospel begins with the words: "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." Mary certainly had a loving and trusting relationship with God long before the angel appeared to her and announced this good news, because she accepted the angel's announcement without hesitation or doubt.

Mary is a model for each one of us. Mary knew God and she trusted God. She was willing to place herself in a very awkward position when she responded to God's call to bear God's Son. She did not know how this would come about. Nor did she know what her future would be, but she did not hesitate in her response to the angel. She didn't say to the angel: "I need to think about this and pray about this." She simply said: "Let it be done to me." Would we have such faith if an angel appeared to us and made such an astounding announcement to us?

Each one of us is called to bear Jesus Christ to our world every single day. Do we believe that God can and will do amazing deeds through us? Do we trust that God walks with us each and every day, in good times and in difficult times?

Mary was chosen by God. However, we too have been chosen by God! Ask yourself: Do I truly believe this? How can this be?

Take some time today to sit quietly and several times say to yourself: "I am God's chosen one." Repeat that sentence several times and let this reality soak into your being. For as it was true for Mary it is also equally true for you!