



**Wednesday 29 Sep 2021**

**Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**

**Gospel**

**Jn 1:47-51**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*Above the Son of Man you will see the angels of God ascending and descending.*

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming he said of him, 'There is an Israelite who deserves the name, incapable of deceit.' 'How do you know me?' said Nathanael. 'Before Philip came to call you,' said Jesus, 'I saw you under the fig tree.' Nathanael answered 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel.' Jesus replied, 'You believe that just because I said: I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.' And then he added, 'I tell you most solemnly, you will see heaven laid open and, above the Son of Man, the angels of God ascending and descending.'

**Reflection by Fr John Purnell**

Today is the feast day of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. Now ask yourself this: *Is this feast meaningful to me?*

*Do I believe in angels regardless of whether they are archangels or just regular angels?*

Most of us learned about angels at a young age. There are angels in the Scriptures, there are angels in Islam and Hinduism and over the years there have been many books, TV shows and movies all focused on depictions of these angels. Yet I suspect that many of us have not had a personal and up close experience of an angel, a heavenly being sent by God, suddenly appearing to us.

I believe however that if we take time to really think about it, we hopefully could name several people in our lives who are angels to us. It may be someone who notices us and asks how we are when we are in a moment of sadness. Or perhaps it is someone who anticipates our needs and suddenly appears right when we need them the most. Or it may be a person who surprises us with a simple gift or their time or attention. That is the appearance of an angel, a messenger sent by God! Today, take note of these angels that appear to you and strive to be an angel to the individuals you encounter. It can be a simple and perfect gift to give!

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