

A Reflection on Mary in this Month of May

May is marked with “alleluias” as we celebrate the Resurrection and live into the Easter joy we proclaim. May is also marked by the church in its dedication of the month to Mary. As we celebrate the Year of Faith, we reflect on the remarkable role Mary plays in salvation history. Her “yes” to God’s invitation forever changed the course of history. Today, Mary offers us three essential pathways for living our faith.

Mary shows us how to listen. Mary was a young girl living in a culture where she could have been stoned to death for having a child out-of-wedlock. She knew the cultural and societal consequences of her “yes.” She knew what could happen if Joseph didn’t understand. She had reason to fear her parents’ reactions. When the angel appeared to Mary, we read in scripture how she was deeply troubled. Somewhere deep within she found the courage, inner strength, and grace to respond with full assent, “Let it be done to me according to your word.” Mary show us what it means to listen with full intensity to what God is asking, God’s invitations may very well demand everything of us. Deep pondering, heart-centered attentiveness, and courageous listening are required of us, too.

Mary shows us how God’s word must be shared with others. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, they did not simply exchange a simple greeting, but one of deep faith. God’s word is meant to be shared. It cannot be contained within us if we are to be filled with the life it offers. We must share it with others. During this Year of Faith, we are invited to ponder the word of God so that we might share it joyfully with others.

Mary shows us how to live in God’s word. Mary lived moments of profound joy as well as profound sorrow. From losing Jesus in the Temple to the journey to Calvary, Mary lived these sorrows and anguished deeply. Mary formed and raised Jesus from the simplicity of her daily life. She was a person in conversation with God, with the Word of God, and also with the events through which God spoke to her. From the Annunciation to Pentecost, Mary appears as someone whose freedom is completely open to God’s will and shows us how to live in God’s word.

In this month of May, may we turn to Mary in our times of joy and sorrow and ask her to continue to show us the way to her Son. As we strive to grow in faith and live more fully in God’s word, may we, like Mary, bring Christ to others.

by Sr. Katherine Feely, SND Just Faith Ministries

St Aelred of Rievaulx Catholic Church

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Masses for the Week Beginning 19th May 2019 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sat 18/05	6.30pm	Holy Mass	
Sun 19/05	10:00am	Holy Mass	<i>John Houston</i>
Mon 20/05	9:30am	Word and Communion	
Tues 21/05	9:30am	Word and Communion	
Wed 22/05	9:30am	Holy Mass	
Thur 23/05	9:30am	Word and Communion	
Fri 24/05	9:30pm	Holy Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>

Eucharistic Adoration available every weekday in the chapel

Prayer and Praise: Wednesday evenings: 7pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: at St Robert’s Church Saturdays 11 to 11.45 am and 5 to 5.45 pm, and at other times by appointment.

Please pray for those with anniversaries: Jack Kent, John Houston

Prayers for the Sick: please inform us of anyone who has asked for prayers and has given their permission.

Confirmation Preparation Autumn 2019: We are still looking for people to volunteer to be catechists to prepare our young people wishing to be confirmed later in the year. We need to hear from volunteers now in order that their DBS clearances can be processed in time for Autumn. Please contact Deacon David if you are interested in this ministry.

St Aelred's Catechism programme for First Sacraments: Please remember to pray for the 14 children from our Parish preparing for First Holy Communion and for their families and catechists. First Holy Communion Sunday is the 23rd June when Holy Mass will be at **10.30am**

Deanery day of renewal. Saturday 8th June from 11.30 to 4.00 pm in St Aelred's church hall. Speaker will be Fr. Chris Thomas, who is director of the Irenaeus project in the Liverpool diocese. A former youth and university chaplain and parish priest he is an author, scripture scholar and popular conference speaker. There will be a shared table for lunch so please bring a small contribution. For further information please ring Dolores Omand 01423870789 or visit our web site cclleeds.org.uk

Pentecost Sunday – 9th June: We will again celebrate Pentecost and our International Parish with a shared table of Foods of the Nations. Be prepared to bring a plate of your favourite national dish.

The SVP are again running a summer camp in Leeds for those children who would otherwise not have a holiday. Our SVP Conference are funding one child this year and may support others if we have funds. If anyone would like to donate money to this worthy cause please put your donation into an envelope marked SVP Summer Camp, hand to SVP members or place into the offertory collection. It costs £95 to fund one child at the holiday camp. Thank-you for your continued support of the SVP.

Leeds Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2019: There are only a few weeks until our pilgrimage departs and we have only around 20 places left for the flight due to popular demand. If you would like to come on the pilgrimage to Lourdes, perhaps for the first time, perhaps as a returning pilgrim, please contact our Tour Operator in the following ways: www.joewalshstours.co.uk or telephone 0161 8208790

Also: The Lourdes Pilgrimage Hospitality Team are in desperate need for more volunteers (Doctors, Nurses, and Helpers) for the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes – 5th – 11th July 2019. If you are able to help please call Kim O'Connor (Medical) 07947 534989; Angela Harvey (Helpers) 07939 262748. Many thanks.

Diocese of Leeds Foundations in Faith: A Course of Catholic Faith Formation for catechists, teachers and anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. The course incorporates the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) and begins at Hinsley Hall in September 2019. There will be an information evening about the course at Hinsley Hall on Tuesday 11th June from 7:00 – 8:30pm. For further info please contact Emma 0113 261 8040 or evangelisation.admin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Auditions for Leeds Cathedral Choir: A superb opportunity for young singers. The Choir of Leeds Cathedral is holding auditions for a limited number of places on Sunday 9th June, for boys in Y5-10 (including tenor and bass) and girls in Y6-10. Opportunities include regular vocal tuition, BBC broadcasts and recordings. Please contact the Diocese Music Department at office@dioceseofleedsmusic.org.uk or 0113 244 8634 for more information.

Vacancies: Parish Youth Ministry Worker at Our Lady and All saints Parish, Otley. For more information email: evangelisation.admin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

The St Gregory the Great Catholic Academy Trust requires a full time **Financial Accountant**. Ideally some experience of school finance required. Email Emma: education.admin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Knit and Natter Group (hosted by Catholic Care) will be on Thursday 23rd May, 10.30-11.45am. We have a venue change this month and will be meeting in the Ripon Room at the St Robert's Centre. The next meeting will be on the 13th June back in our usual venue at St Aelred's. We are a small but very friendly group who would love some more members. If you enjoy knitting, doing crochet or any other small craft activity, bring your project, or help us to knit blankets for Catholic Care's Gianna project and join us for refreshments and conversation. £2 including refreshments. For more information please contact Rachel Beedle on 07739 975021 or 0113 3885400.

Three Peaks Challenge: On Saturday 3rd August 2019, walkers, raising money for St Patrick's Mission Bradford, will climb the highest 3 peaks in Yorkshire. Led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, who are based at St Patrick's Mission, we aim to climb the 3 peaks in under 12 hours. Support us by signing up to walk or sponsoring us: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stpatrickmissionbradford?success=true>

Do join us for tea and coffee after Sunday Morning Mass.