

**Parishes of Stainton with Hemlington,
Hilton and Brookfield
15th August –
The feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT HOME

Thought for the day

Whoever we are, however we feel, God will always welcome us. He turns **no one** away. He welcomes us, he uses us for who we are, just like he welcomed and used Mary. This fourteen-year-old girl, with all the insecurities and doubts and fears of a teenager, was chosen to be God's bearer on earth. So never, ever fear that you are not worthy to be of use to God

COLLECT

**Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed
Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of
your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed
by his blood may share with her in the glory of
your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever**

The book of the prophet Isaiah.ch 61.10—11

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation, he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with
a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring
up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and
praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 45.11—18

RR Sing praises to God, sing praises;

11 'Hear, O daughter; consider and listen
closely; forget your people and your family's
house.

12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty;
he is your master; therefore do him honour.

13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift;
the rich among the people seek your favour.'

14 All glorious is the princess as she enters;
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to
the king; after her the bridesmaids follow in
procession.

16 With joy and gladness they are brought,
and enter into the palace of the king.

17 'In place of fathers, O king, you shall have
sons; you shall make them princes over all the
earth.

18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; therefore
nations will praise you for ever and ever.'

RR Sing praises to God, sing praises



**A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Galatians ch 4.4—7.**

4 When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under
the law,

5 in order to redeem those who were under the
law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

6 And because you are children, God has sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!
Father!'

7 So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.ch 1.46—55**

46 Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness
of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for
me, and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him from
generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has
scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in
remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our
ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for
ever.

PRAYERS

Father God we remember Mary's willingness to do your will even when it would change her life so completely. Help me as an individual and as a member of your Church to listen to your word and to live my life in your ways. Lord make all your people mindful of your gifts, that we might be content and grateful, giving our love and our lives to you all our days.

Lord Hear our prayer

We thank you for the beauty of the created world; for its wonderful variety. Thank you for the produce of the land, its fields and farms; the crops now coming towards late summer ripeness. Help us all to be good stewards of the earth making little changes in our lives to help reduce global warming and to reverse the worrying signs of climate change – the destruction by fire and flood and melting of the polar ice.

Lord Hear our prayer

Lord help us to show love and friendship to all people, enjoying in return the warmth and light they bring to our lives. Be close to all who govern ensuring the decisions that they make, day by day, are made for the benefit all of the people entrusted to them in their leadership. We pray for our Queen and her family, our national government and local Councillors.

Lord Hear our prayer

Father God we pray for our own communities and all of our neighbours. We thank you also for our families and friends, raising before you those we know with particular needs. May your peace and love surround them bringing with it comfort and strength.

Lord Hear our prayer

Gracious God we pray for our friends who are ill and for those known only to you. We pray for all who minister to them, both at home and in hospital or care centres. We ask that they may all experience the light of the Gospel and a real sense of your healing presence. Thank you for those who are on the road to recovery and for the miracle of healing.

Lord Hear our prayer

Merciful God we pray for those whose lives have been shattered by the death of someone close and dear to them. We pray for members of our natural and church families who have gone before us into your eternal presence.

Lord Hear our prayer

Faithful God receive our intercessions and thanksgiving on behalf of the church and the world. Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

St Catherine of Sienna said that God told her, *'I could well have made human beings in such a way that they each had everything, but I preferred to give different gifts to different people, so they would all need each other.'*

God could have brought about a kind of salvation untouched by human hand, but God preferred to do it in a way that needed a handmaid. Therein lies our dignity **and** our glory, that God waits upon **us** for so much that God wills to have done in the world, and longs for each one of us to say, with Mary, *'I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.'*

What poverty we live in if our Church is not a place where our hearts are open to God and our lives are transformed by worship. *Martin Luther King*

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