

ASSUMPTION OF MARY

REFLECTION



“When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.”

To a secular world the Feast of the Assumption of Mary always seems strange. It is a feast that honours the whole human person, body and soul; but, even though our society is obsessed with material objects, we often fail to notice the very dignity of the whole human person. The Assumption is also an invitation to celebrate the goodness and the joy that God promises us in faith for the end of time.

On the Feast of the Assumption we remember Mary’s role in our faith lives and personal journey.

Mary’s courage, faithfulness and strength will only come to life for us today as people connect their experience with hers. She is a model for all disciples, both women and men. Any portrayal of her as a passive recipient, who only faced one choice in her life and then followed some preordained plan, diminishes her as a human being. Jesus’ affirmation of her as Woman shows he did not reduce her to one relationship, that of Mother, but recognised her full personhood.

‘As we tell again the story of this woman, first among the disciples, we might come to realise that we do not need to over-emphasise Mary’s role. As a woman, as a disciple, she is pilgrim like us, a wisdom figure to whom we can turn to and learn what it means to be open to a God who keeps calling us into new and unexpected places.’

(Through a Woman’s Eyes, Encounters with Jesus, Christine Burke ibvm)

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us and all the world now and for all time. Amen