

## Scripture Reflection

### **A Reading of the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 1:38) The Annunciation**

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection ~ Mary, Our Powerful Protection against Satan**

**Mary's role in salvation history is enshrined in sacred Scripture and revealed in prophesy.** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and Hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.*" (Genesis 3:15). Very early in the history of mankind, God announced to Satan that his enemies will be a woman and Her child. No other enemies were named other than these two. Thus, Mary's role in the salvation of mankind has been clearly defined by God. She is to assume a key role, a role that thrusts Her into the front line of the battle with evil. She and Her child, Jesus is God's response to the works of the ancient serpent, Satan. Mary and Jesus are our protection against evil. At their names, the devil flees!

**It is in God's plan that redemption of the world is dependent upon Mary.** But the angel said to Her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; You have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and You are to call Him Jesus." (Luke 1:31-32). During the Annunciation, God represented by St. Gabriel the Archangel and Mary representing humanity came together and the result was reconciliation of humanity with God and peace. God, in His infinite wisdom, could have done away with the role of Mary but it has pleased Him to put Mary into such an exalted position not accorded to any other human being.

**Jesus has given us Mary to be our spiritual mother.** 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." From that time on, this disciple took Her into his home (John 19:26-27). John represented poor humanity much in need of a loving mother's help to grow closer to God. Mary, the highly favoured One of God, and beside whom there is no peer, fits the bill perfectly. *Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her (CCC 2676).*

**Mary's unique mission is to help Jesus to be born into the world through each of us.** Mary through Her fiat to God in Her role in the salvation of the world, opens Her heart to the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and cooperated fully for the birth of Jesus into the world. Mary's mission has not stopped after the first Christmas. Together with Her Son and the Holy Spirit, She continues working tirelessly on the mission God has given Her in the fight against evil. Working in unity with the Holy Spirit, She is still continuing to bring forth Jesus into the world especially through each of Her spiritual children who are properly disposed to Her edifying motherly action in our hearts. She who bore the Saviour is the mold, the pattern for the spiritual formation of Her spiritual children entrusted to Her by Her Son Jesus.

**Mary is the Ark of the New Covenant, the place where the glory of God dwells. (cf. CCC 2676).** Astounding parallels exist between Mary and the ark of the old covenant. In the ark of the old covenant were the following: the tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments (cf. Deut. 10:3-5), a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded (cf. Hebrews 9:4). In this ark the law of God was inscribed in stone while in Mary's womb was the Incarnate Word, Jesus. In the jar in the ark was the bread (manna) that kept the Israelites from starvation in the desert. In Mary's womb is the true Bread of Life, Jesus that came down from heaven to bring eternal life. In the ark was the budded staff of Aaron, the proof of true priesthood. In Mary's womb is Jesus the true, eternal and high priest of God.

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, thank you for the precious gift of Mary to be our mother and refuge against evil. God, the Holy Trinity has exalted Her to great heights unparalleled by any other human being. In Your First Coming, You were given to us through Mary through Her spotless womb. In Your Second Coming, You will yet again come through Mary, Your Mother and most perfect Disciple, this time through the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart. In the meantime, Mary's divine mission in union with You is to mold and form Her spiritual children which You have given Her to become part of the heel that will crush the head of the Ancient Serpent. Mother Mary, protect us and keep us safe in Your Immaculate Heart. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.