

## The Assumption of BVM

If our faith is true. If the revelation of the nature of God that we have been exploring for over two thousand years is valid.

Then the most radical participation of earth bound humanity, in creation and life is to be found in the conception and birth of Christ Jesus.

That is in the fundamental role of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sadly western history has not always been kind to the far-reaching nature of this woman.

Why I wonder is the Blessed Virgin Mary so rarely portrayed as an older women with a grown up son.

Why I wonder is this Mother of the Church referred to as clement and sweet.

What is happening when this prophetess who predicted the overthrow of Princes draped in soft colours and given a placid expression.

Surely upon this sacred image we are projecting an invalid and outdated view of woman.

The transformation, the significance, the change of humanity which knit together in the womb of this participant meant that nothing was ever the same.

We take advantage of the humility of the faithful servant at the foot of the cross, and mould the image into comfort.

Possible because of the radical humility of the Mother of God.

Possible because of the radical nature of humility.

This woman fully accepted the will of God

“Let it be according to thy word”

When my mother died after a long and fruitful life I tried to say this. When I realised that I could not live to the levels of idealism I proclaimed, I tried to say this. As I draw closer to my final breath I hope I will be able to stammer that same sacred response.

Humble words which are not comfort but challenge.

Where can we find an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is perhaps valid in the modern era. A woman who ran from the death threats of the tyrant Herod. A woman who cared for her child in the poverty of a stable. Or on the road to a foreign land.

Perhaps not the image of a woman on a donkey, but a mother in a rubber dingy trying to cross the English Channel to find refuge.

A humble image of challenge not comfort.

What did Mary do at the foot of the cross, as the child she had born twisted and twitched with enforced agony. The humility of she who could share with the Christ and with us the most basic love is stunning. How often have I watched frightened people trying to do something. How more valid I have witnessed a wife , child, friend share in the death of a loved one.

A humility of abandoned independence.

Do not reduce the Blessed Virgin Mary to a pious image of resignation

This is the most powerful woman that ever loved.

Participate

Recognise

And be challenged.