

Blessed Virgin Mary

As we approach the feast of Christmas on the radio are the songs that have made fortunes for those who got a tune and cliché of Christmas cheer to match.

On the TV are the annual perfume adds for those who cannot think of anything else to buy, go with the fantasy that they will have that image if they smell like that.

Then there are the images of smiling happy prosperous people happily gathering around a family Christmas.

Do you feel like the odd one out because your family does not fit into any of these stereo types?

We very often take a lived reality, and transform its appearance and example by the way we project how we think it should be.

Jesus was born in a stable in poverty.

The holy family ran in fear of their lives from Herod's repressive regime

The difficult is transformed by ignorance and fashion to the comfortable

The challenging to the soothing.

No greater victim of this taming of dangerous is the place of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This woman who conceived, bore and gave birth to the Son of God, has often in the last 2,000 years been reduced to the compliant maidservant of the church.

Women in Western Europe have only for one century past, been able to own property.

In much of Western Europe women have been the possession of their husbands.

The role of Mary the mother of God has been throughout that history an open contradiction which has been ignored.

This is an independent woman, who at an early age had such a capacity for prayer that it transformed not just her lifestyle, but her physical nature. This independence is ignored.

The power of this woman who struggled with the poverty of Bethlehem, and in the filth of that degradation, realised the dignity of new life, is romanticised

The courage and faithfulness of the woman who gave birth and witnessed the death of this man Jesus, is patronised.

Who you may ask other than Christ Jesus himself is the greatest living revelation of the love of the Father.

It is a woman

Who you may ask in the history of humanity has had the greatest capacity for prayer

It is a woman

Who you may ask other than the person of Christ Jesus himself is the most important physical agent of change in the history of revelation

It is a woman.

How then has western Christianity managed to proclaim the faith of Jesus, and at the same time adopt the culture of Roman and Greek Civilisations?

Subjecting the whole female sex to the role of servant or slave

In it not only in faiths such as Islam that culture and doctrine can be confused.

This woman Mary, the mother of God, is at the heart of our faith

Women is at the heart of our faith

Women therefore should be afforded the respect and role of authority that any reasonable reading of the Gospel will justify.