

Reflection Saturday Week 20 – Mary, Mother and Queen 2020

Before the birth of Christ, the great hope of the people of Israel was the coming of the Messiah. However, when the Messiah arrived, he did not come in the way he was expected. Those who recognised him hoped the he would restore all things to their rightful place and that peace would reign throughout the world. However, the way that Jesus, the Messiah, realised this salvation and this hope did not happen in the way that they expected. Once Jesus had resurrected and ascended into heaven the hope was that the world would be converted by the Gospel, the Good News, and peace would finally reign in the world and that God would take his rightful place among us as the centre of our lives. Mary would have been one whose hope lay in the coming Messiah, who came not in the way that she expected because she was the one asked to bring him into the world. Her hope in him did not foresee his brutal death but, as our Queen and Mother, she continues to be our hope for peace and justice in the world. However, peace and justice may not come in the way that we would expect unless, like Mary, we fulfil a key role in bringing it to fulfilment.

Hail Mary our Mother, so gentle and true,
for nine months you carried "*God with Us*" in you.
Hail Mary our Mother, so quiet and strong,
give us the courage to join you in song.
Hail Mary our Mother, free from sin and full of grace,
lead us to your son, help us see and recognize His face.
Hail Mary our Mother of mercy and sorrow;
pray for us, Mary, in our todays and tomorrows.
Hail Mary our Mother, Holy Queen enthroned above,
teach us faith, and wisdom, teach us love.
Hail Mary our Mother, so tender and mild,
give us the vision to see with the eyes of a child.
Hail Mary our Mother, shining light, guiding star,
bring back your children wherever they are.
Hail Mary our Mother, pure and chaste,
quicken our hearts that we would make haste.
Hail Mary our Mother, look on us with compassion and favour,
and, one day lead us home to your son, our Saviour. Amen.

Sunday school teacher: Tell me, Johnny. Do you say prayers before eating?

Johnny: No, ma'am, I don't have to. My Mum's a good cook.