

Reflection Thursday Week 25 Our Lady of Walsingham 2020

For all the worries caused by Covid 19, the most important worry from which we are freed is what happens after we die. St Paul makes it clear that, as children of God, we are heirs to the Kingdom. Our place in heaven is booked?? The second great consolation is to know that the Blessed Virgin has taken up residence with her Son Jesus within us. The Shrine in Walsingham not only reminds us that Our Lady has taken up residence in our land but also within us. Having the presence of Christ and his mother within us is of great comfort and consolation.

William Lecky writes:

The world is governed by its ideals, and seldom or never has there been one which has exercised a more profound and more salutary influence than the mediaeval conception of the Blessed Virgin. For the first time woman was elevated to her rightful position, and the sanctity of weakness was recognised as well as the sanctity of sorrow. No longer the slave or the toy of man, no longer associated only with ideas of degradation and of sensuality, woman rose in the person of the Virgin Mother into a new sphere, and became the object of a reverential homage of which antiquity had no concept . . . The moral charm and beauty of female excellence was, for the first time, felt. A new type of character was called into being, a new kind of admiration was fostered. Into a harsh, ignorant and benighted age, this ideal type infused a conception of gentleness and purity unknown to the proudest generations of the past. In the pages of living tenderness which many a monkish writer has left in honour of his celestial patron; in the millions who, in many lands and in many ages, have sought, with no barren desire, to mould their characters into her image; in those holy maidens who, for the love of Mary, have separated themselves from all the glories and pleasures of the world, to seek, in fasting, vigil and humble charity, to render themselves worthy of her benediction; in the new sense of honour, in the chivalrous respect, in the softening of manners, in the refinement of tastes displayed in all walks of society – in these and many other ways, we detect its influence. All that was best in Europe clustered around it, and it is the origin of many of the purest elements of our civilisation.

Thank you, Mary, Mother of God and our mother. . . **Our Lady of Walsingham Pray for us.**

What day is it???

Three elderly gentlemen are taking a walk outside their nursing home. The first one says, "Windy, isn't it?" The second one says, "No, it's Thursday!" The third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer."