

Reflection Saturday 1st January Mary the Mother of God 2022

Wishing you a very Happy, Holy and Blessed New Year and what better way to start than to celebrate Mary the Mother of God. Knowing that Mary the Mother of Jesus is also our mother is so comforting as we begin a New Year. With all that we have learned about the importance and value of our families over the past two years, knowing that Mary is with us strengthens us as we venture into the future not sure what awaits us. Recognising how we are supported in this way gives us encouragement and stimulus. Mary embraced her future when asked to become the Mother of Jesus and went to help Elizabeth give birth to John to understand better what she would eventually face in giving birth to Jesus.

In this coming year, besides giving birth to Jesus, his love, goodness, hope and compassion, we continue to face the challenge of living more simply and helping those who find life a continual struggle. We can do more to help our planet as it, too, struggles to survive and give birth to new life. We can be more open and welcoming to the stranger and the refugee and see in difference a richness and the discovery of the true greatness and wonder of God.

We are a family, like a dense green tree,
which is laden with flowers and fruits,
that never grow rotten and die.
On this new year and every new year,
we always remain like this family,
like this dense tree, always smiling and growing.

*Lord, as this new year is born
I place it in your hand,
content to walk by faith those paths
I do not understand.
Whatever coming days may bring
of bitter loss, or gain,
or every crown of happiness;
should sorrow come, or pain,
or, Lord, if all unknown to me
your angel hovers near
to bear me to that farther shore
before another year,
it matters not — my hand in yours,
your light upon my face,
your boundless strength when I am weak,
your love and saving grace!
I ask you Lord hold fast my hand,
grip fast my soul, and be
my guiding light along the road
till, blind no more, I see!*