



St Marylebone  
*Parish Church*

## The Feast of the Annunciation 2020

Our third reading at Morning Prayer today quoted from a Letter of St. Leo the Great. Today, is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lowliness is assumed by majesty, weakness by power, mortality by eternity; a nature that was incapable of suffering was joined to one that could suffer, he writes, so that the healing we need can be guaranteed through the death of Jesus, the immortal Second Person of the Holy Trinity, in one nature – our humanity.

By his incarnation, God taking flesh, this day God enlarges our humanity without diminishing his divinity. He empties himself to take the form of a servant; though invisible, the Lord of all time and eternity, makes himself visible by choosing to be one of us sinful, fallen, fallible mortal men.

Beyond our grasp, God chooses in the Fiat of Mary to come close to us, to come within our grasp. Incapable of suffering as God, God becomes man to suffer with us and alongside us and for us.

Christ Jesus, our wholeness and our healing, is God by virtue of the fact that he was in the beginning the Word, the Word that was with God, the Word that was God. Christ Jesus is man by virtue of the fact that the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, who didst overshadow Mary that she might become the mother of Jesus our Saviour do thou likewise work silently within my heart to form within me the fullness of his redeemed, and redeeming, humanity. Give me a share in his loving heart to burn with love for God and love for men. Give me a share in his joy and his sorrow: his weakness and his strength, his labour for the world's salvation. May Mary, blessed among women, Mother of our Saviour, pray for me, that Christ may be formed in me, that I may live in union of heart and will with Jesus Christ, her Son, our Lord and Saviour.<sup>i</sup>

Amen.

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<sup>i</sup> Fr Cheslyn Jones