

Following Our Lady Through the Gospel

Saint Ninian's High School

Parents' Retreat

5th June 2014

Our theme for today

1. The **joy** of the gospel **fills the hearts** and lives of all who encounter Jesus.

Those who **accept** his offer of salvation
are **set free**

from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness.

With Christ joy is constantly born anew.

Programme

- 10:15 Arrivals
- 10:30 Welcomes/Intros & Opening Prayer
- 10:40 Following Mary Through the Gospels
- Individual reflection time
 - Opportunity to share in 3's (with Tea/coffee as we go)
 - Plenary
- 11:45 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Oratory)
- 12:10 Lunch
- 1:00 Living The Joy of the Gospel
- 1:50 Comfort break / transfer to Oratory.
- 2:00 Celebration of Mass



Your PARENTS may NOT be
PERFECT
but they are THE MOST
PRECIOUS GIFT
GOD has ever GIVEN
YOU.



Pope Francis' prayer intentions for June

Unemployed. That the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity.

Faith in Europe. That Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.



Following Mary Through the Gospel

Take a gospel passage and the accompanying image. Find a quiet spot in the classroom or the Oratory and follow Our Lady through the gospel.

- What happens in this story?
- Is Mary present, or perhaps in the background?
- What part does she play?
- In what way does she help us to approach Jesus?
- How can these points come into your prayer today?



The Annunciation

- ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.
- ²⁸ He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favour! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, ³⁰ but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. ³¹ Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; ³³ he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.'
- ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?'
- ³⁵ The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And I tell you this too: your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, ³⁷ for nothing is impossible to God.'
- ³⁸ Mary said, 'You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.



The Visitation

³⁹ Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah.

⁴⁰ She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ Now it happened that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

⁴⁴ Look, the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

⁴⁵ Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

⁴⁸ because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant. Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name,

⁵⁰ and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him.

⁵¹ He has used the power of his arm, he has routed the arrogant of heart.

⁵² He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his faithful love

⁵⁵ -according to the promise he made to our ancestors -- of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with her some three months and then went home. ⁵⁷ The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; ⁵⁸ and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had lavished on her his faithful love, they shared her joy.



The Nativity

¹ Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world.

² This census -- the first -- took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria,

³ and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line,

⁵ in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child,

⁷ and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space.



Adoration of the Shepherds

- ⁸ In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night.
- ⁹ An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'
- ¹³ And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words: ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours.
- ¹⁵ Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.
- ¹⁷ When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, ¹⁸ and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them.
- ¹⁹ As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.
- ²⁰ And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.



Flight into Egypt

¹³ After they had left, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.'

¹⁴ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt,¹⁵ where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

¹⁶ Herod was furious on realising that he had been fooled by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or less, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men.



The Presentation of the Child Jesus

- ²¹ When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.
- ²² And when the day came for them to be purified in keeping with the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord-²³ observing what is written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord-²⁴ and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is prescribed in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.
- ²⁵ Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to the restoration of Israel and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. ²⁷ Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, ²⁸ he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:
- ²⁹ ***Now, Master, you are letting your servant go in peace as you promised; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen the salvation ³¹ which you have made ready in the sight of the nations; ³² a light of revelation for the gentiles and glory for your people Israel.***
- ³³ As the child's father and mother were wondering at the things that were being said about him,
- ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed- ³⁵ and a sword will pierce your soul too -- so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'
- ³⁶ There was a prophetess, too, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years³⁷ before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer.
- ³⁸ She came up just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.



The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

⁴¹ Every year his parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. ⁴³ When the days of the feast were over and they set off home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it.

⁴⁴ They assumed he was somewhere in the party, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances.

⁴⁵ When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

⁴⁶ It happened that, three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions; ⁴⁷ and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies.

⁴⁸ They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.'

⁴⁹ He replied, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'

⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he meant. ⁵¹ He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart.

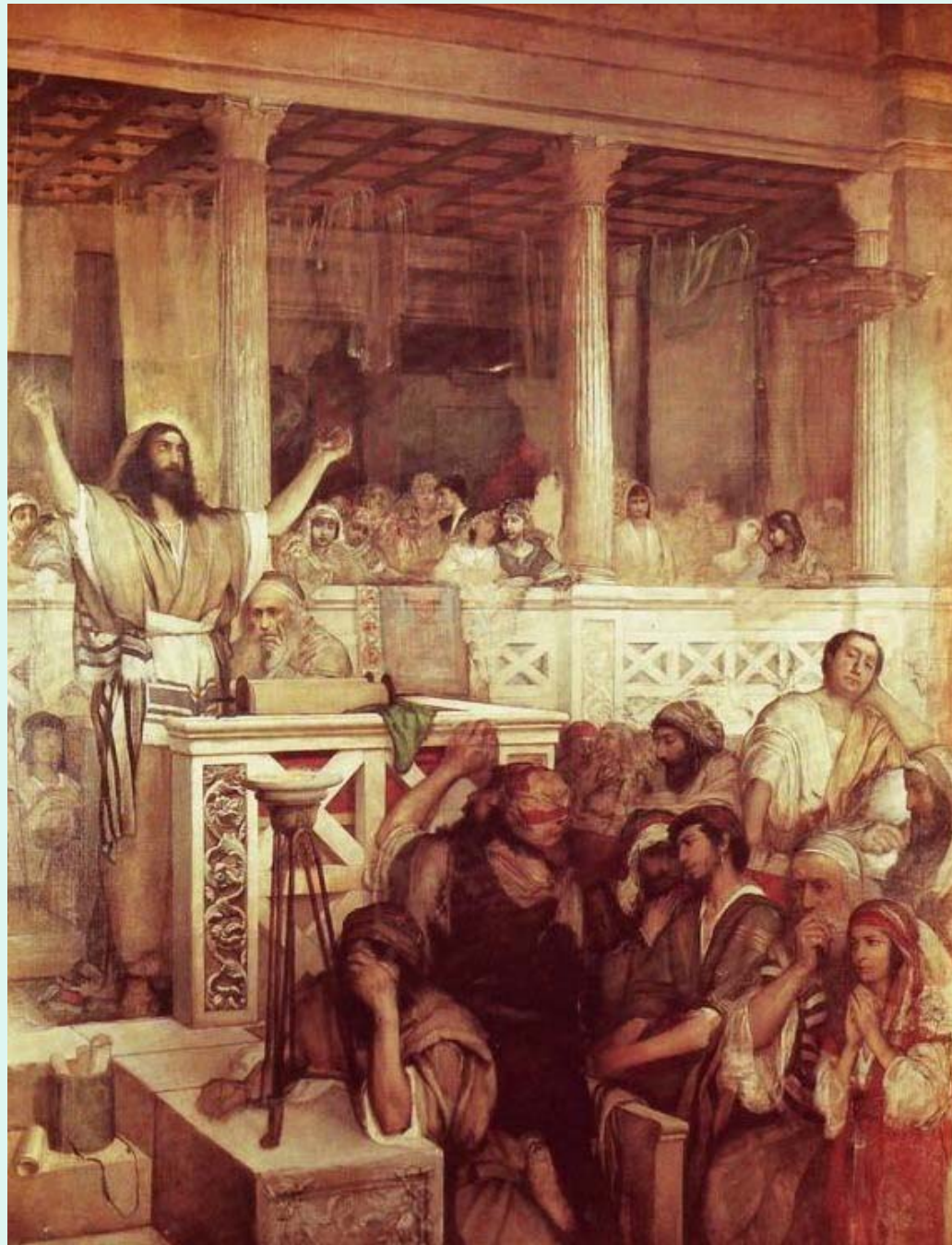


The Childhood of Jesus

⁴⁰ And as the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him....

⁵¹ He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with people.



Rejected in Nazareth

- ¹⁶ He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read,
- ¹⁷ and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:
- ¹⁸ The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
- ²⁰ He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him.
- ²¹ Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even while you are listening.'
²² And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'
- ²³ But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself," and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own country."'
- ²⁴ And he went on, 'In truth I tell you, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.
- ²⁵ 'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, ²⁶ but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a town in Sidonia. ²⁷ And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many suffering from virulent skin-diseases in Israel, but none of these was cured -- only Naaman the Syrian.'
- ²⁸ When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged.
- ²⁹ They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him off the cliff, ³⁰ but he passed straight through the crowd and walked away.



The Wedding Feast at Cana

¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. ³ And they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the feast had all been used, and the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

⁴ Jesus said, 'Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.'

⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

⁶ There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he said to them, 'Draw some out now and take it to the president of the feast.'

⁹ They did this; the president tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from -- though the servants who had drawn the water knew -- the president of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said, 'Everyone serves good wine first and the worse wine when the guests are well wined; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

¹¹ This was the first of Jesus' signs: it was at Cana in Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, but they stayed there only a few days.



The Crucifixion

- ²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.
- ²⁶ Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.'
- ²⁷ Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.
- ²⁸ After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed and, so that the scripture should be completely fulfilled, he said: I am thirsty.
- ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there; so, putting a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick, they held it up to his mouth.
- ³⁰ After Jesus had taken the wine he said, 'It is fulfilled'; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.



Jesus is buried

³¹ It was the Day of Preparation, and to avoid the bodies' remaining on the cross during the Sabbath -- since that Sabbath was a day of special solemnity -- the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away.

³² Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other.

³³ When they came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs ³⁴ one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

³⁵ This is the evidence of one who saw it -- true evidence, and he knows that what he says is true -- and he gives it so that you may believe as well. ³⁶ Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: Not one bone of his will be broken; ³⁷ and again, in another place scripture says: They will look to the one whom they have pierced.

³⁸ After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus -- though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews -- asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away.

³⁹ Nicodemus came as well -- the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time -- and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, following the Jewish burial custom. ⁴¹ At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in this garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. ⁴² Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



Pentecost

⁹ As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, ¹¹ and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.'

¹² So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk; ¹³ and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James.

¹⁴ With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.



Mary, Queen of Heaven

¹ Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, robed with the sun, standing on the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

² She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth.

³ Then a second sign appeared in the sky: there was a huge red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet.

⁴ Its tail swept a third of the stars from the sky and hurled them to the ground, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was at the point of giving birth, so that it could eat the child as soon as it was born.

⁵ The woman was delivered of a boy, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, ⁶ while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had prepared a place for her to be looked after for twelve hundred and sixty days.