

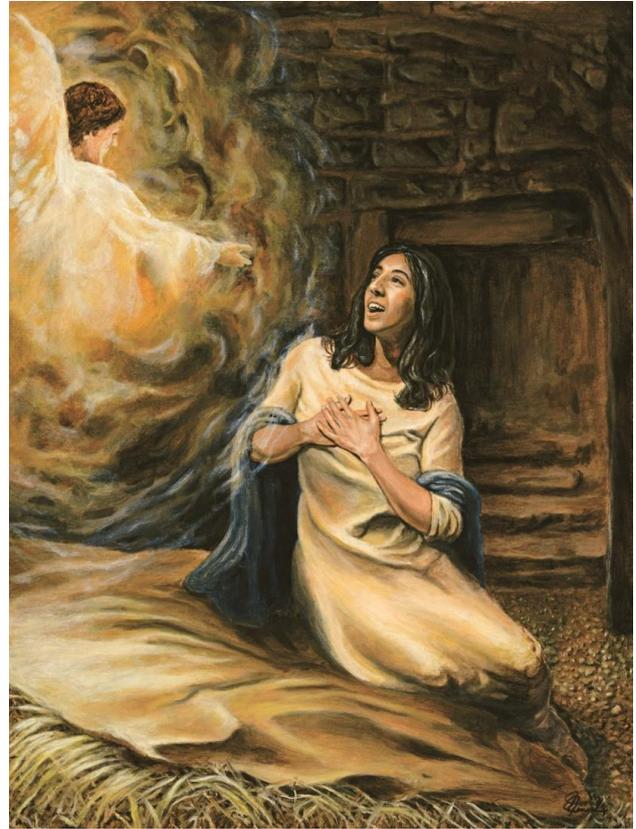
A Reflection on The Annunciation

Imagine yourself in Mary's place, asked to say "yes" to a divine plan so huge, so deep and so seemingly impossible that you cannot understand it. She asks, bewildered...

"How can this be?"

When an angel appeared in the midst of everyday life, extending a surprising invitation. The angel says...

"You have found favour with God, and you will conceive and bear His Son."



Will she accept?

It is Mary above all others who can teach us what it means to **live by faith**, and how to respond when God's call interrupts our lives.

Despite her fears and uncertainty over how this promise could be fulfilled, she still answered...

Yes!

Are we able to respond to God this way?

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."



This is an echo of Mary's words... "Be it done unto me according to your word."

For the rest of her life, **Mary pondered** her extraordinary encounter with God, turning the weight of the angel's message over and over again in her heart.

From the manger to the cross, Mary's life was radically changed -- her relationship with God profoundly deepened -- the moment she said "Yes."

Angels might not appear in our doorsteps, but we do encounter God in each of our daily prayers, and he whispers to us a similar invitation.

Amid the noise of everyday life, will we listen for and embrace his love and presence in our lives?

Will we trust in His plan for us, even when we can't see the path ahead?

Would we say "Yes" to God?



Find a notebook and write a prayer to God about something that you are pondering or someone who is on your heart at the moment.

Why not keep using this journal over the year ahead to write/draw images helping you to listen out to God in those things your pondering or the people you're thinking of. Looking back over this journal might help you see how you are saying "yes" to God, like Mary did.