

Reflection on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven

The Feast of the Assumption is highlighting the role 'Mary, the Mother of Jesus' played in the salvation history of mankind. She was chosen by God to become the mother of His incarnate Son. She was the human vessel through which God intervened in the history of Israel. After God expelled Adam and Eve from paradise, mankind became lost in a world of death. In His mercy towards His people, God relented from His wrath and designed an audacious plan to save the being of man by aligning His own Flesh and Blood with the fate of mankind.

During the message of an angel, the virgin Mary gracefully embraced the request from God to become the Mother of His Son. From the moment God overshadowed her with His love a normal human process of hope and joy is beginning. When the moment of birth arrived, Her Son Jesus came into the world. From His birth onwards, God began to change the direction mankind was travelling in, away from the slavery of death towards the true freedom of God's land of milk and honey.

There were very few references in the scriptures towards Mary's personal background or why she was chosen by God to become the mother of His Son. But, we do know she came from the house of David and confessed the faith of Abraham which was handed over from generation to generation.

The intervention of God in the history of mankind brings with it an impossible gap of understanding between the mystery of God and the human condition. Mankind simply can not grasp the mystery of the immortal deity. However, through the depth of her faith the virgin Mary understood that she was part of the plan God had designed to save His people. Her relationship with God is concealed to us but explained in the righteousness of Abraham's faith in the same God. This profound faith in God's righteousness to accept her role in His plan of salvation made her being without sin. When Mary's time in this world was done the love of the Most High then drew her as His bride to Himself in Heaven.

Although the church has the same problem to explain the mystery of God, she does acknowledge the role of the Virgin Mary in the salvation history of mankind. Therefore, by the declaration of the pope's infallibility on this matter the church declared the firm dogma, that the Virgin Mary was assumed with body and soul into Heaven.