



Liturgy Cycle A

The Immaculate Conception, 8th December Mary's Positive Goodness

Introduction

A woman had a dream that she died and came before the judgment seat of God. Holding out her hands she said to God: 'You see, Lord, I've done nothing wrong. My hands are clean'. And God said: 'Yes but they are empty'. Mary's greatness does not consist in the fact that she did no wrong, but rather in the fact that she said 'yes' to God.

First reading (Genesis 3:9-15.20)

When man and woman disobeyed God and fell into sin, God promised salvation from sin through another man and another woman, namely, Christ and his mother.

Second Reading (Ephesians 1:3-6.11-12)

In his love for us God has adopted us as his children. Hence we are called to a holy and blameless life.

Gospel (Luke 1: 26-38)

Mary's greatness and holiness are due to God's grace and her cooperation with that grace.

Prayer Of The Faithful

As we honour Mary the mother of God, let us pray that we may draw inspiration from her life to follow her Son more closely.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the people of God: that they may not be frightened or contaminated by the evil, which continues to darken our world. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the human family: that, inspite of all evidence to the contrary, the world may believe that goodness and love are more natural to us than evil and hate. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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That those who are finding it difficult, and who can't see any pattern in it, may not lose heart. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That no matter what happens to us in life we may never lose sight of the fact that we are in the hands of a loving and caring Artist, God our Father. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

**Once in a small town in Poland
a young boy stood watching a gypsy
as he drank from a well in the town square.
After drinking, the man stood there,
gazing down into the well,
as though looking at someone.**

**He was a giant of a man but a friendly face.
So the boy approached him and asked:
'Who lives down there?'
'God does', answered the gypsy.**

**'Can I see him?'
'Sure you can', said the gypsy.
Then he took the boy into his arms,
lifting him up so that he could see down into the well.
All the boy could see, however,
was his own reflection in the water.**

**'But that's only me', he cried in disappointment.
'All I see is me'.
'Ah', replied the gypsy,
'now you know where God lives.
He lives in you.'**