



ACADEMY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

A Catholic Institute for the New Evangelization
Under the Patronage of Our Lady of Walsingham, Pope St Gregory the Great (Apostle of England), St
Thomas Aquinas, St Philip Neri, and St John Henry Newman

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN SCRIPTURE ADVENT STUDY DAYS

Contemplating Our Blessed Lady through the Lens of Sacred Scripture



Our Lady of Good Counsel¹

“HAIL FULL OF GRACE”

(2 Dates: 10am - 5pm)

Wednesday 4 December 2019

Saturday 7 December 2019

“THE NEW EVE & THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN”

(2 Dates: 10am - 5pm)

Wednesday 11 December 2019

Saturday 14 December 2019

Jesus cannot be understood without his Mother.²

- Pope Francis

¹ Image of Our Lady of Good Council from Wikimedia Commons,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Our_Lady_of_Good_Counsel_by_Pasquale_Sarullo.jpg, accessed 29
October, 2019.

² Pope Francis, Homily, Solemnity of the Mother of God, 1 January, 2015.
https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150101_omelia-giornata-mondiale-pace.html, accessed 28 October, 2019.

*Christ and his mother are inseparable: there is a very close relationship between them ... This inseparability is also clear from the fact that Mary, chosen beforehand to be the Mother of the Redeemer, shared intimately in his entire mission, remaining at her Son's side to the end on Calvary.*³

-Pope Francis

As the season of Advent begins, and we prepare to celebrate that great Solemnity of Christmas when the Saviour of the world was born of the Blessed Virgin, we are invited by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to "listen afresh to the Word of God as did Our Blessed Lady at the Annunciation."⁴

In response to the Bishops' call, and in the spirit of Advent, the Academy of the Annunciation invites you to join us in contemplating Our Blessed Lady through the lens of Sacred Scripture. These study days seek to explore the Divine revelation in Sacred Scripture and the dogmas promulgated by the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in salvation history – Mary as the New Eve, the perpetual virginity of Mary, her Divine maternity (Mary, the Mother of God), her Immaculate Conception, and her bodily Assumption into Heaven.

*You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion ... **The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent** ... In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life ... This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race ... **Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.***⁵

- St Bernard of Clairvaux
(Doctor of the Church)

³ Pope Francis, Homily, Solemnity of the Mother of God, 1 January, 2015.

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150101_omelia-giornata-mondiale-pace.html, accessed 28 October, 2019.

⁴ <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-plenary-meeting-april-2018/>, accessed 28 October, 2019.

⁵ St Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor. *Hom. 4, 8-9: Opera omnia, Edit. Cisterc. 4 [1966], 53-54.*

The place of the Blessed Virgin Mary in salvation history is utterly unique. As good Catholic sons and daughters of Mary, we recite the Angelus and the Rosary. We pray the "Hail Mary" again and again. These study days provide an opportunity to explore more deeply the meaning of that prayer. For those who are parents and catechists, and for all who are ready to answer the call to a new evangelisation, these study days offer a unique opportunity to explore the reasons for our veneration of the Blessed Virgin.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- Acts 2:42

Following in the footsteps of the early Christians, during these study days, we will study together, pray together, and be nourished at the Eucharistic Banquet of the Lord. And there will be opportunities to enjoy social time and fellowship with staff members and fellow disciples.

Seats are limited; please register as soon as possible to ensure you have a place.
Cost for the Day (including lunch): £49.