

**The Solemnity of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary -Sunday 14th August 2022**

A few days ago, a Polish Lady who helps in Broxburn parish, came up to me, looking very concerned; she had been watching the news about the revealing of the third secret of Fatima to the Holy Father, the Pope. In the message, a prophetic message, Mary the Mother of God, apparently warned the world that in 2025 there is very likely to be a major catastrophe in the world, a major conflict in which many will die, and much suffering ensue.

In order to avoid this cataclysmic event taking place, the People of the world must repent of their sins, come back to God and pray.

This is a sort of 'Armageddon' Prophecy, akin to the writings of the First Reading at Mass from the Book of Apocalypse/Revelation. Here is this passage, full of metaphor, the mission of the Church is laid before us; to struggle against the power of the devil. The main protagonists are, The women, the Dragon, the People of God and the devil. The 'Woman' represents humanity in her labour pains, in her fallen state, epitomised by 'Eve'. – However, at the time of incarnation, the new 'Eve' is focused on Mary, that by her labour pains, the salvation of the world is brought to Light. The Saviour is the fruit of God's love for humanity.

Mary, the Mother of Christ, represents also, humanities cooperation with God's plans, her fleeing into the desert with the child Jesus and Joseph – this is an invitation too for the People of God to journey towards living a spiritual life, withdrawn from the world.

So, Mary is the perfect role model of the person who loves Christ Jesus and leads us away from demonic powers so that we can truly be inspired to choose good over evil; light over darkness, the angels of heaven as opposed to the angels of death. The key message for us is that Mary is not lost, she is found; not only found but also truly glorified by God. Her belief in the greatness, the Magnificat that comes from God is truly sanctified and honoured. So, Mary is among the communion of saints; and where she is, she wants us to follow.

She is the marvel that God achieved at the outset of transforming humankind into his image.

The Magnificat, or Songs of Mary expresses the deepest feeling of the Christian soul. Mary is urging us, in humility, to seek the truth that comes from God.

(Like a Mother praying for her beloved children) Now is the time, before its too late, to seek the truth, to discover what our major priorities are in the world, and last but not least, that we become truly and essentially human, the Marian Way, where all God's people are made in his image and the dignity of life is upheld at all costs.

Pope Francis' recent encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', which in its final chapters is dedicated to Mary the Mother of God, pleads with the People of Holy Mother earth, to recognise our common ground, our co-dependency and the finite nature of the world. The Magnificat is a plea from Mary to overcome greed selflessness and the ego centric desire for power. That we are all called to serve, to serve one another. Just as Mary proclaimed to the Archangel Gabriel, "I am the handmade of the Lord". Let us, like her, allow our legacy, in the world's perilous state be, "I came here to serve and not be served".

I have come, like Mary, to do whatever Jesus teaches me, He is, as St Paul writes in Corinth, the only dominion/authority that can destroy death forever.

God bless you all,

Canon Jeremy Bath