

Saturday 12 October

Jl 4:12-21, Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12, Lk 11:27-28

From Baptised and Sent

The image of Mary as a faithful disciple who lives a pilgrimage of faith engages the sensibility of modern people and the understanding of the Church in its call to discipleship. Pope Francis writes in *Evangelii Gaudium*, twice quoting John Paul II's Encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*: "Mary is the woman of faith, who lives and advances in faith, and 'her exceptional pilgrimage of faith represents a constant point of reference for the Church.' Mary let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness. (p. 120)

From Pope Francis

Today let us all ask ourselves whether we are afraid of what God might ask, or of what he does ask. Do I let myself be surprised by God, as Mary was, or do I remain caught up in my own safety zone: in forms of material, intellectual or ideological security, taking refuge in my own projects and plans? Do I truly let God into my life? How do I answer him? Am I a Christian by fits and starts, or am I a Christian full-time? Our culture of the ephemeral, the relative, also takes its toll on the way we live our faith. God asks us to be faithful, daily, in our everyday life... Faith is ultimate fidelity, like that of Mary.ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

Archbishop Polding took over the more formal aspects of training of the young religious, impressing on them his strong conviction that devotion to Our Lady would give light and balance to their Benedictine vocation... he bequeathed his own fervent devotion to the Mother of God, as the Mother of hope, grace and holy joy. "Do you my dear children, bear ever this thought with you in your gratitude and jubilation, and if in the warmth of your hearts, you would desire to hear her voice, think that all she ever says and does is comprehended in that great saying of hers at the marriage feast, Whatever he says to you, do it".ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV

ⁱⁱ *The Wheeling Years*, Our Lady and the Good Samaritans