

Hail, holy mother! The child to whom you gave birth is the king of heaven and earth forever

Today we celebrate the feast, the solemnity, of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God.....

There are many Christians who do not like this title.
Mary is a creature, Mary is a human being,they rightly point out.

Therefore she cannot be called the Mother of God...they wrongly conclude

But actually it is important to call Mary Mother of God,
because it safeguards the reality of the Incarnation.

In Jesus Christ, God REALLY DID become human.
He did not just “seem” to become human, he did not just pretend to become human...He really did become human.

God the Son really did become Incarnate in the womb of the virgin Mary

As I said yesterday, the human person Jesus Christ really is the divine Son who together with the Father and the Holy Spirit created the whole universe.

And Mary really is the Mother of the human person Jesus...therefore Mary really is the Mother of God

In so far as Jesus is God, he is eternal.

He is not made, rather he is generated, begotten by God the Father from all eternity

But In so far as Jesus is man, he was born, he was made... of Mary

St Cyril of Alexandria said “I am exceedingly astounded, that there could be anyone who has any doubt whether the Blessed Virgin Mary should be called the mother of God. If our Lord Jesus Christ is God, why should the Blessed Virgin, who gave him birth, not be called the Mother of God”

So today, as we give honour to Mary as the Mother of God
let us remember that this feast points us to her son Jesus..the king of heaven and earth forever

the only saviour, the only name given in heaven and earth by which men may be saved

let us pray that we, like Mary herself, may keep all these things and ponder them in our hearts
let us like those in today's Gospel, be amazed by these things

let us like the shepherds in today's Gospel Glorify and praise God, let us be glad and exult

let us thank God, that through his son, born of a woman, born of Mary

we have been ransomed
we have become adopted children
we can cry out ABBA, Father
we are no longer slaves, but heirs of God, coheirs with Christ

What other response can we rightly give to God,
but to accept the grace which he offers us through the Son of Mary

to allow him to transform us

Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.
Theotokos..God bearer

Hail, holy mother! The Child to whom you gave birth is the King of heaven and earth for ever!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Why is this solemnity so important?Or maybe we should rather ask “why is it so important, that we know Mary is the mother of God and not simply the mother of Christ?”

And the answer is, because it safeguards the truth about her son.It means that we know her son REALLY is God.

The man Jesus Christ, who was born into the world through the specific woman Mary....really is God.

In my homily yesterday, I stressed that Jesus really was human, his body was not a mere phantom....he didn't just SEEM to be human, he really was a man,

And now, today's feast assures us that Jesus also really was God....he wasn't just some great prophet, he wasn't just a son of God with a small g.

.....Jesus was Divine, Jesus was God.....Jesus is God

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human....one person with two natures

Jesus Christ, born of Mary, is the eternal Word.

He is God the Son, the only begotten son,he is the second person of the Holy Trinity, through whom the world was created,and who even now upholds the universe by his word of power

That is why he is able to save us, to be the redeemer of the whole of humanity, that is why he is able to give us a share in the divine nature, to divinize us.....because he really is divine himself, he really is God the Son

That is why through him we become adopted sons of God the Father, and why we can cry to God in the Spirit “Abba, Father”

That brothers and sisters is the real importance of us knowing that Mary is the Mother of God, ...because it safeguards the amazing truth of who her son isOne person who perfectly unites in himself two natures..a divine nature and a human nature...

...it's impossible to fully understand....but through grace, through faith, through the action of the Holy Spirit, we can believe it and we can KNOW that it is true,

We can seek to understand something, of what it means

Let us, like Mary herself in today's Gospel,treasure all these things and ponder them in our hearts

If we really do that,then we too, like those who heard the report of the shepherds in today's gospel...will never stop being astonished, we will never stop wondering at the amazing generosity of God, of God who emptied himself, took the form of a slave, and was born as a man , all out of

love for us

.....if we ponder these things in our hearts, then we like the shepherds in today's Gospel will glorify & praise God,....we will thank him, we will worship & adore him ..& we will realize that the only fitting response we can make, is for us to give ourselves back to God, to give our whole lives back to Godnot just at Christmas but everyday of our lives,

Every day of our lives, to live for him who humbled himself for our sake to pour out our own lives in loving service of him and in loving service of others, because of him

May we accept God's grace to make such a response and may we seek the aid and intercession of Mary... mother of God and mother of us all

Mary, Mother of God.....Pray for us

Amen