

May, the month of Mary, our Mother

(1) Read about the Annunciation and answer the questions in your copy.

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, 'Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!'

Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!'

Mary said to the angel, 'I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do.'

'I am the Lord's servant,' said Mary; 'may it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.

KEY WORD

Annunciation: The visit of the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary to tell her that God had chosen her to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus. Mary said yes to God's plan for her and she became the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- What message from God did the angel Gabriel give to Mary?
- How did Mary feel about this news?
- What did the angel say Mary's child would be called?
- Who did the angel say was six months pregnant?
- What were Mary's final words to the angel?

- (2) Pray to Mary. You may wish to learn this prayer off by heart.

**Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears!
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile, show unto us
the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.
Amen.**



- (3) If you have a May Altar sacred space in your home, your teacher would love to see a photo! There is a template for a May Altar prayer box on the school website. (Sixth Class/Religion)