



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

## **Mary, the Mother of God 2025**

*Readings: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Ps 71, Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2: 1-12*

The Christian Faith specialises in paradoxes and apparent oxymorons as if to challenge the very rationality at the heart of Man's understanding and logical processes.

To call this simple Jewish maid the mother of the Lord of all that was, is or ever will be, tests and stretches the very borderlands of our ability to comprehend. So, for most people outside the Catholic Church, the dignity of this title, Mother of God, applied to a human being, is an ad absurdum and further evidence that the requirements of Faith are to be able to believe fifteen impossible things before breakfast.

Of course, no such destructive critique would be applied to the theory of evolution, quantum physics, black holes or 'String theory', all of which are totally incomprehensible to almost all human beings who have ever lived but are accorded dogma status by the scientific magisterium of our time.

Why do Catholics insist on making it harder for people to believe the Gospel by 'adding' sterner tests to our belief, making our assent into assort of Grand National of obstacles to be overcome in order to have a chance of victory.

Well, the Church's wisdom here is simple and best summed up by a short story of a friend of mine who, once a tremendous evangelist and street preacher, became a Catholic in response to his awakening to the Real Presence – another essential that can scarcely be understated in its importance and most difficult for the non-Catholic mind to embrace.

H and his wife were on holiday. Going to the local church that Sunday, H was under - impressed by the sermon and thought he detected elements of heresy. At the door, he confronted the preacher. 'Do you believe that Jesus is God?', he enquired, on the back of several worrying comments in the Vicar's exposition of Holy Scripture. There was much wriggling and obfuscation and circumlocution in response. My friend persisted in asking the question. Eventually the Vicar, with some exasperation, vouchesafe, 'Well, if you put it like that then the answer is NO....I don't believe Jesus is God.'

'In that case,' my friend replied, 'you shouldn't be occupying that pulpit or celebrating Communion at this altar.

Harsh but true.

The Church declares Mary to be 'Mater Dei' not out of some perverse delight in obscurantism but because she believes that Jesus is God incarnate. If He is not fully Man then He cannot represent us. If He is not fully God then He cannot save us. The Dogma of Mary Mother of God is central to our belief, our hope and our destiny. If we are to achieve the Apotheosis, the divinisation, necessary for dwelling in eternity with God, then we must become children of that same Mother and brothers and sisters of the Incarnate Deity who is Christ Jesus, Our Lord.