

GOSPEL PEARLS

Small but daily yeses

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In The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her. (Luke 1, 26-38)

The Incarnation of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary constitutes a watershed in history, which hitherto has been divided into before and after Christ. Mary, by her unconditional yes to God's will, gives Jesus the possibility of being born on earth, thus allowing each person to meet Him personally. And once met, each of us can decide to open our hearts to Him living peacefully and courageously our time on earth in wait of eternal life. Try not to make Our Lady's courageous yesterday be taken in vain, imploring her for the strength to say our own small daily yeses to the Lord.