Monday Blogg, March 25th (For staff)

March 25th we celebrate the feast of The Annunciation. Luke’s gospel, Lk 1:26-38 tells the story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary in a town in Galilee in Nazareth.

**The Annunciation  -  Luke  1:26-38**

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.  He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."  Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"  The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

Luke’s account indicates the strength of Mary’s character and her strong faith in her willingness to respond to God at the Annunciation. By partaking in the divine nature she indicates the fullness of the kingdom pointing to the fact that God calls the rest of humanity to share in what has already been granted to her. As we pray the first Joyful Mystery of the rosary we bring to mind all who have suffered tragedies recently- those who died in our country due to tragic circumstances, those in the world who have been killed because of their faith, those suffering and dying as a result of climate change throughout the world. May we, like Mary, be strong and faithful in our response to the presence of God in our lives so that we may be open to the wonders of God working in and among us. As the hymn from the second class programme prays,

*“Mary, our mother, the Lord is with you. Guide us, protect us in all that we do”.*

Srs Maureen, Anne and Edel