

Monday 7th December 2020

Advent, Monday of 2nd week

Reading: Lk.1,26-35

V.34 *“How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’”*

Mary found it difficult to get her head around what the angel Gabriel had just announced to her. The fact was, she was a virgin and therefore not in a position to be found with child. Perhaps she expected Gabriel to become “practical” and “realistic” at this point and bring in Joseph, the man she was engaged to be married to, and the part he was going to play.

But that was not the case. Instead she learned that the fruit of her womb would be of the Holy Spirit, *“the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”*

It is not just that the fact of Mary’s condition as a virgin declares the divinity of Jesus (which it does!), but that it also declares something regards our humanity, which is to be restored in him. We too might ask, ‘How will this be since we are by nature what we are?’ And we might then go on to consider a kind of Christian faith which “realistically” and “practically” seeks to build that true humanity on our own nature. But the answer is that faith, because it unites a person to Jesus Christ so that he dies to sin and begins to live to righteousness through him (cross and resurrection!), is of the Holy Spirit. It is the sovereign work of God.