

Looking Forward

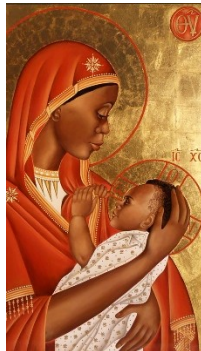


Looking Forward in Faith

1st January 2023
Mary the Mother of God

In Matthew's Gospel,
we hear that :

“Mary treasured all
these things, reflecting
on them in her heart.”



Loving God,
give us wise, self-controlled,
patient understanding,
and be faithful,
in our hearts.
Give us devotion to your service,
and strength against all temptations;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



✠ “OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.” ✠

HOLY MARTYRS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Margaret Clitherow (1556 – 1586) suffered persecution as a Catholic during the reign of Elizabeth I. She provided safe accommodation for Catholic priests but when her son Henry went abroad to study for the priesthood, her house was searched and a priest hole was found. She was executed in York.



“Jesus is in you,
He is with you and
He never abandons you!”



- Pope Francis, *Christus vivit*, 2019

The Feast of the Epiphany : 6th January

Go to Cologne Cathedral in Germany and you will find the Shrine of the Three Kings. Matthew's Gospel speaks of wise men rather than kings, and does not specify their number, but they brought the Christ Child three gifts and so people have assumed three visitors. According to tradition they were called Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and on the Feast of the Epiphany we remember this as we inscribe C + M + B (*Christus Mansionem Benedicat* or Christ bless this house) above or on our doors.



J. Adams, Secondary Religious Education Adviser,
Brentwood Diocese Education Service

