



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever."
And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Some things to think about...

- Elizabeth was Mary's cousin – she believed in Mary and helped her get ready to become the mother of Jesus.
- Think about a time when someone believed in you and helped you – a teacher, a family member or a friend.
- As a Mini Vinnie, you can be a mentor to others too!

Activity

'The Magnificat' is a song of praise to God from Mary. She is thankful for all that God has done, and will do for her, and this gives her the courage to serve God. Write a short prayer as an individual or as a group that is like the Magnificat! Thank God for what you have (what are you grateful for?) and ask for the courage to continue to serve God as Mini Vinnies, by caring for others in your community. You could pray these prayers at the end of your meeting.

Teacher's Notes

Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth after being visited by the Angel Gabriel and told she was due to give birth to the Son of God. Elizabeth knew this before Mary said anything, and exclaimed "Blessed are you among women!" which Catholics say in the "Hail Mary" prayer. Mary's Magnificat (the passage she speaks in this reading) shows Mary's delight and strong faith in God's plan for her. Elizabeth is a mentor to Mary, and her son St John the Baptist baptises Jesus. Both Elizabeth and her son believe in the divine roles Mary and Jesus play – Jesus as the Son of God, Saviour of the World, and Mary as the Mother of God who intercedes for us. The Magnificat shows that God is on the side of the poor and so is also a prayer that supports the work of the SVP (Mini Vinnies). This week could be an opportunity for the Mini Vinnies to think about their mentors and how they can be mentors to others.