



A Journey through Advent

Week 4: Sunday

Nothing is impossible to God.

Luke 1:37

In a Japanese survey, men were asked whom they would save if their mother, wife and child were in danger and only one could be helped. In Japan, most men polled saved their mothers - perhaps harsh to our western ears, but interesting. The logic? You can marry again and have more children but you cannot replace your mother.

Mary was an ordinary girl, yet Gabriel addressed her with great respect: "Rejoice, so highly favoured..." Of course, we know Mary was indeed special, chosen by God to be Jesus' mother. God had chosen Mary; now Mary was given a choice. Scripture says she was "deeply disturbed" by the angel's words – and who wouldn't be? And yet, her acceptance and eagerness to do God's will was not hesitant. Unlike many of us, she did not ask for time to think about it. Mary's "yes" to God was courageous, loving and faithful.

Mary does not disappear after the nativity: she instigates the first miracle at the marriage feast; she is there at the foot of the cross; she is with the disciples after the Ascension. Her "yes" to God does not diminish and her presence in our lives continues to be *irreplaceable!*

cf: linktoliturgy.com/marys-fiat

Music to listen to...

The Angel Gabriel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Rv-J46gvM>

Ave Maria (Caccini)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gsIeaawhUA>

A Mindful Moment...

Think for a minute about the last time you were out of your comfort zone. How did you cope?

A Thought to Carry Through the Day...

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

How green is your Advent? If you have a garden, is there a composter?

from an idea in *Jesuits and Friends Advent Calendar 2020*

