

## *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*



*Gentle woman, quiet light,  
morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle mother, peaceful dove,  
teach us wisdom; teach us love.*

You were chosen by the Father;  
you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women,  
and for woman, shining one.

Blessed are you among women;  
blest, in turn, all women too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits;  
blessed they with gentle hearts.

*Artwork by Therese Withers (used with permission)*

Today's Gospel tells us that Mary treasured all these things that she had heard and pondered them in her heart. So what can we infer about Mary from what we hear in the Gospels?

### ***Mary the GENTLE woman***

The one who cradled the Child Jesus in her arms both as a baby and when he was taken down from the cross. Mary teaches us how to be gentle in our dealings with others.

### ***Mary the STRONG woman***

The one who gave birth in poverty, who coped with refugee status and who watched her son die on the cross. Mary teaches us to be strong as well as gentle. She is no meek and mild woman. The Holy Spirit gives her strength and we can share in that strength.

### ***Mary full of WISDOM***

The one who was wise enough to tell the waiters at the Wedding Feast at Cana – “Do whatever he tells you”. May we always listen to Jesus and do whatever he tells us.

### ***Mary the CHOSEN one***

The one, invited by God to be the mother of Jesus; the chosen one who, despite her fears, confusion and anxieties, said “Yes” to God. May our response to God always be “Let it be done to me according to your word”.

***Mary the PEACEFUL woman***

The one who was a calm and peaceful influence on Jesus and the Disciples. The one who waited with the disciples whilst they were hiding in fear after the crucifixion. We pray that we may be peacemakers in our world.

***Mary the SHINING star***

The one whose love, faith and joy shines out as an example for us. May we be shining stars to all we meet.

***Mary BLESSED among women***

The one who was blessed by God; who found favour with God. May we, especially women, acknowledge that we, too, are blessed.



*May we all share the virtue of Mary, the strength and power of Mary.*

*May Mary, our Mother, always intercede for us with her son as she did at Cana in Galilee.*

*And may we all have a safe and blessed 2022.*