

In England

24 September

## Our Lady of Walsingham

Feast

### Entrance Antiphon

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice.  
Let your father and mother be glad;  
let her who bore you rejoice.

Proverbs 23:24a, 25

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

### Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as in the mystery of the Incarnation  
the blessed and ever Virgin Mary  
conceived your Son in her heart  
before she conceived him in the womb,  
so we, your pilgrim people,  
rejoicing in her motherly care,  
may welcome him into our hearts  
and become a holy house fit for his eternal dwelling.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

### Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, O Lord,  
these offerings of conciliation and praise,  
humbly asking that,  
following the example of Our Lady of Walsingham,  
we may present our very selves  
as a holy sacrifice pleasing to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Preface

### The Daily Life of the Blessed Virgin in the Home at Nazareth.

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with your Spirit.

℣. Lift up your hearts.

℟. We lift them up to the Lord.

℣. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℟. It is right and just.

It is truly right to give you thanks  
truly just to give you glory, Father most holy,  
on this celebration of the glorious Virgin Mary.

For at Nazareth she receives with faith the message of Gabriel  
and becomes the Mother of your Son,  
begotten by you before the ages,  
now born into this world of time  
as our saviour and our brother.

At Nazareth too, in loving communion with her Son,  
she watches over the growing Church,  
in the person of her Child  
and hands on to us the shining example of her life.

In the holy house of Nazareth,  
as the first disciple of her Son,  
she receives the message of the Gospel,  
treasures it in her heart,  
and reflects on it in her mind.

At Nazareth also this purest of virgins,  
united with Joseph, the just man,  
in an unbreakable bond of chaste love,  
praises you in song,  
worships you in silence,  
honours you by her daily life,  
and gives you glory as she cares for her family.

And so, with all the Saints and Angels,  
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

## Communion Antiphon

Luke 2:51

Jesus went down with them  
and came to Nazareth  
and was submissive to them.

## Prayer after Communion

All-holy Father,  
look with kindness on those you have strengthened  
with the Sacrament from heaven,  
so that, through the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
we may work silently  
at building up your kingdom on earth  
and so enjoy its fulfilment in heaven,  
in the company of your Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

24 September

## Our Lady of Walsingham

### Feast

From the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary (707-712).

Reading 1:	Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10c	(707-7)
Responsorial Psalm:	Luke 1:46-47. 48-49. 50-51. 52-53. 54-55.	(709-5)
Acclamation:	Cf. Luke 1:28	(711-1)
Gospel:	Luke 1:26-38	(712-4)

# OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

This feast celebrates the shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in Norfolk, one of the great pilgrimage centres of medieval times. The lady of the manor of Walsingham, Richeldis de Faverches, was instructed by a vision of the Virgin Mary to build in her village an exact replica of the house in Nazareth in which the Annunciation had taken place. The vision occurred, according to tradition, in 1061, though a more likely date for the construction of the shrine is a hundred years later. The original house was destroyed at the Reformation, but during the 19th and early 20th centuries pilgrimage to Walsingham was revived both for Anglicans and for Catholics.

The Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Office of Readings

### HYMN

1. Angels and seraphim, thrones and dominions  
cluster in silence on Nazareth hill,  
all of creation stands breathless with wonder,  
waiting the Word that will bring its release.
2. Word of a Virgin who, knowing her weakness,  
gives herself wholly to God her betrothed;  
Word of the Father, eternal almighty,  
needing a home in that Virgin's pure womb.
3. Chosen by God at the dawn of creation,  
she stands alone in the silence of faith;  
Maiden of Israel now, but hereafter  
Mother of Christ and his Church through her love.
4. Jesus our Lord, in the whole of your being  
you are the perfect expression of love,  
Word of the Father, who breathes out upon us  
Spirit of tenderness, mercy and truth.

11 10 11 10

Text: Mount Saint Bernard Abbey, altered.

### SECOND READING

From a homily of St John Paul II given at Wembley Stadium, London, 29 May 1982.

After the Ascension the Apostles went back to the Upper Room, where Jesus had instituted the Eucharist and where he had declared that the law of love is the first and most essential of his commandments. And there they "joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" (Act. 1, 14). This evening we have gathered here in a similar spiritual atmosphere. On the eve of Pentecost I am celebrating this Mass with you. Together we shall renew our baptismal promises as an offering of ourselves to our heavenly Father, joined to the sacrificial offering of Christ in the Eucharist.

Let us reflect together on the word of God. The Apostles in the Upper Room were afraid. They prayed. And we too pray, for we are beset by fears and weaknesses: “We groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free”; we too wait in patience for the Spirit to come to help us in our weakness (Cfr. Rom. 8, 22-26).

Together we shall renew our baptismal promises. We shall reject sin, and the glamour of evil, and Satan, the father of sin and prince of darkness. We shall profess our faith in the One God, in his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, in the coming of the Holy Spirit, in the Church, in life everlasting.

And we shall be responsible for the words we say, and be bound by an alliance with our God.

Brothers and sisters! In order to be faithful to this alliance we must be a people of prayer and deep spirituality. Our society needs to recover a sense of God’s loving presence, and a renewed sense of respect for his will.

Let us learn this from Mary our Mother. In England, “the Dowry of Mary”, the faithful, for centuries, have made pilgrimage to her shrine at Walsingham. Today Walsingham comes to Wembley, and the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, present here, lifts our minds to meditate on our Mother. She obeyed the will of God fearlessly and gave birth to the Son of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Faithful at the foot of the Cross, she then waited in prayer for the Holy Spirit to descend on the infant Church. It is Mary who will teach us how to be silent, how to listen for the voice of God in the midst of a busy and noisy world. It is Mary who will help us to find time for prayer. Through the Rosary, that great Gospel prayer, she will help us to know Christ. We need to live as she did, in the presence of God, raising our minds and hearts to him in our daily activities and worries.

Brothers and sisters, to be faithful to our alliance with God we must be, not only a people that prays, but also a people that does the will of the heavenly Father. Again it is Mary who teaches us how. Through her obedience she accepted the whole of God’s plan for her life. And in doing so she achieved greatness. “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord” (Luke. 1, 45).

## RESPONSORY

**R.** Truly blessed are you among women, for God has made his dwelling within you. \* You will consecrate many peoples to the Lord.

**V.** You bore in your womb him whom the heavens could not contain. \* You will consecrate many peoples to the Lord.

## Morning Prayer

### HYMN

1. Mary crowned with living light,  
Temple of the Lord,  
place of peace and holiness,  
shelter of the Word.
2. Mystery of sinless life  
in our fallen race,  
free from shadow, you reflect  
plenitude of grace.
3. Virgin-Mother of our God,  
lift us when we fall,  
who were named upon the cross  
Mother of us all.
4. Father, Son and Paraclete,  
heaven sings your praise,  
Mary magnifies your name  
through eternal days.

75 75

Text: Stanbrook Abbey.

**Benedictus ant.** The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.'

### Prayer

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as in the mystery of the Incarnation  
the blessed and ever Virgin Mary  
conceived your Son in her heart  
before she conceived him in the womb,  
so we, your pilgrim people,  
rejoicing in her motherly care,  
may welcome him into our hearts  
and become a holy house fit for his eternal dwelling.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Evening Prayer

**Magnificat ant.** Blessed are you, Virgin Mary, who have believed that which was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

# APPENDIX

## Readings

### ESV/ ABBEY PSALMS TEXT

#### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10c

*‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive.’*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

In those days:

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz:

<sup>11</sup> ‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God;  
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said,

‘I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.’

<sup>13</sup> And Isaiah said,

‘Hear then, O house of David!

Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Emmanuel—

<sup>8:10</sup> God is with us.

The word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-47. 48-49. 50-51. 52-53. 54-55. *R*:49

*R*: The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

*or*: O Blessed Virgin Mary, who bore the Son of the eternal Father.

<sup>46</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. *R*:

<sup>48</sup> For he has looked upon his handmaid in her lowliness;  
for behold, from this day forward,  
all generations will call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> For the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name. *R*:

50 His mercy is from age to age  
for those who fear him.  
51 He has made known the strength of his arm,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit of heart. *R.*  
52 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has exalted those who are lowly.  
53 He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and has sent the rich away empty. *R.*  
54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
mindful of his mercy,  
55 even as he promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his descendants for ever. *R.*

### Acclamation before the Gospel

cf Luke 1:28

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women.  
Alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

*'Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.'*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time:

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God  
to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,  
27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph,  
of the house of David.  
And the virgin's name was Mary.  
28 And he came to her and said,  
'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!'  
29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying,  
and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.  
30 And the angel said to her,  
'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.  
31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
and you shall call his name Jesus.'

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.  
And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,  
33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever,  
and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

34 And Mary said to the angel,  
‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’  
35 And the angel answered her,  
‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;  
therefore the child to be born will be called holy—  
the Son of God.

36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age  
has also conceived a son,  
and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.  
37 For nothing will be impossible with God.’

38 And Mary said,  
‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;  
let it be to me according to your word.’  
And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Acknowledgments

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