



St Marylebone
Parish Church

Friday 9.30am 1st January 2021
Mary, the Mother of God

St Mary the mother of Jesus is our patron. It is especially appropriate for us here at St Mary-le-bourne to call her her traditional English title: OUR Lady. That is exactly what she is!

Ever since I discovered the meaning of our title, St Mary-Le-Bone I have been unable to get images out of my head.

by the Tyburn river - the location of our church building.
Our medieval church on the river bank.

But straight away in my mind's eye I had Her, St Mary herself, a young Palestinian Jewish woman by the river. washing, collecting water, chatting, actually running the community and family as has always been the case! Men like Herod sat in their throne rooms. The High Priest had his courtroom, but women have, for the most part, actually run the world and made things happen! Their thrones and courts

- a lot more instrumentally important - were in those days their homes and markets and riverbanks.

It is this woman of faith, care, power and determination that today we celebrate today as we begin a new year.

She shows us the way. She is all about Jesus, always pointing never to herself, always to Him – that’s the way to begin 2021 (this year of all years!) with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

3 tips from Our Lady for 2021...

1. She shows us our destiny – life perfectly with and in God and the Communion of Saints.

2. She shows us our daily reality – ‘fiat’. ‘Let it be unto me’ she said, ‘according to thy word’. She shows us the pattern for uniting our will with God’s. Losing ourselves in His love. ‘Let it be unto me’, we learn day by day to say. Uniting ourselves with our loving Father more and more fully.

3. She shows us that wherever, whoever, however, we are: we belong to a family. God’s family. The family of the Saints in heaven and the Church on earth. We are never alone, we never need feel lost or abandoned. Our family is here in the Church on earth, and it is the Saints and angels.

Our relationship with Our Lady Mary, then, is not an ‘ology’, not a controversy, not a matter of church taste or theology preference. She’s our friend, our patroness, our mother as children of her Father, as brothers and sisters of her Son.

I commend you to her friendship and care. And pray that on this feast you might allow her to point you the way - as mother's at their best always do - today, to our belonging to this great Eucharistic family of the Church, and to our destiny where she has gone before us, and in her footsteps to a life lived enveloped in the love of the Father. Thanks be to God.