

Homily for the Cleator Pilgrimage

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, Sunday 10th September, 2017

(Pr. 8:22-31. Eph. 1:3-6. Luke 2:27-35)



In the litany of Loreto the Church honours Our Blessed Lady with the title of Seat of Wisdom, in other words, Mary is a woman of wisdom who has much to teach us. As the Mother of Christ she was close to her creator as any human being could be, and so had a deep insight into God's ways and what his will is for us human beings, his sons and daughters. Through her acceptance of God's invitation to become the mother of Jesus Christ, Mary joined her will with that of Almighty God and so walked the path of true wisdom. God has given us Our Blessed Lady as someone who can teach and point us in the direction of her divine Son. Mary, we might say, knows God's mind and what he is thinking.

Just as the Lord God had a special plan for Mary, the Virgin from Nazareth, so too our God the creator has a distinctive plan for each one of us. We are told in that second reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians that God had us in mind even before the creation of the world. What an inspiring and consoling thought! In his wisdom and providence God chose us to be holy in Christ. Therefore we are not just accidents of history or fate for he knows each one of us by our own name. When we honour Mary as the Seat of Wisdom we are reminded that just how she played her part in doing God's will, we too will have found wisdom if we do the same.

The old man Simeon at the Presentation in the Jerusalem Temple declared that Mary's Son was the 'light of the nations'. Mary herself walked in that light throughout her life, trusting and believing in her Son and in his mission on earth. We know that motherhood and being a humble servant of the Lord would cost Mary dear, for Simeon foretold how a sword would pierce her heart. Yet she persevered through the trials and sorrows that came her way, and can teach and help us to do the same. One of the last acts of Jesus on the cross was to give us his mother, to be our mother, to look after and care for us as any good mother would do. Mary is her Son's gift to us.

We come Cleator on pilgrimage today once more to honour Our Lady, to entrust ourselves again into her caring hands, confident that she will lead us in the ways of wisdom and light. We ask her in prayer to deepen our faith in the great truth of God's Son becoming one of us, and to remain faithful to him in good times and in bad as she did, ever his true disciples to the end. May Our Lady be for us and for the whole Church the seat of true wisdom. Amen!

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