

*And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her. St Luke 1:38.*

Mary is not simply a passive recipient of what God is asking of her. Her free 'yes' is the sign of her active participation in the fulfilling of God's promises. We see her at the annunciation not only as the mother of the Lord, but as the first of his disciples, accepting God's word and allowing it to work in her life.

It is interesting to ponder the maternal influence that Mary had on Jesus. As he grew up in her home and she taught him to pray, is it stretching our imaginations too far to suggest that there is an echo of 'let it be to me' in the prayer that he was to comment as the model of all prayer 'thy will be done'? She is certainly our companion as we pray those words, encouraging us to respond to the gift of God in the same way that she did. Doing God's will does not come automatically, but she shows us that the more space we make for him in our lives the freer and happier we become. As you pray the Lord's Prayer today give a bit more attention to the phrase 'thy will be done' and ponder what that could be asking of you.