

*And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and returned to her home. St Luke 1:56.*

The Blessed Virgin Mary and St Elizabeth have rejoiced together at what God is doing in their lives. They have given each other consolation and strength and experienced the responses of their children within their bodies. Then Mary goes back home to wait patiently for the pregnancy to take its course. Her body changed, tiny hands and feet pushing, and all the while knowing that this was God within her, exposed to all the risks that pregnancy carries with it. These months in which the eternal Word of God was hidden in Mary's body have long captured the imagination of poets. 'For in that womb contained was, Heaven and earth in little space'. says one. Immensity, cloistered in thy dear womb', says another. The small space of Mary's womb contains something vast - the fullness of God who created the universe.

In so many ways our faith shows us the capacity of the small to convey the immensity of God and that each one of us can, in a sense, be a God-bearer. 'For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace,' says the opening prologue of St John's Gospel. The fullness of God's own life, poured into us, filling our lives. We are made powerfully aware of that when we have received Holy Communion - there is something awesome about having the Body and Blood of Christ in our bodies. That moment shows us something of the role of our bodies and lives conveying God's presence to the world.