

*Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:13-14.*

The steadfast message of the prophet Isaiah is that God is preparing a way to send his Messiah, and that in him all the promises that God makes will be fulfilled. Like all the prophets before and after him Isaiah speaks to a people schooled in hardship, calling them to cling to God's promises, and to await in confidence for the consolation of Israel.

We are recalling today that God's preparing the way to send his Messiah reached a climax in the holy life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today's feast proclaims Mary as radically holy - every aspect of her being was ready for the Son of God to grow within her. God's promises made through Isaiah are fulfilled as he prepares the way for Jesus in her. As we go about our tasks today we should be conscious that we are asking him to prepare the way for Jesus in our lives, that he may powerfully and faithfully grow in us.