

# Marian Assembly

## Mary's generosity



### LEADER'S NOTES

This presentation lasts around 15 minutes. We recommend you deliver the whole assembly but **please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow.**

This assembly has been prepared by **Mission Together**, the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. 97% of money donated by children to **Mission Together** goes directly to helping children overseas. While all projects are Church-backed, **Mission Together** follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

**This assembly uses animations. We recommend that you run through it first before delivering it.**

### HOLDING SLIDE

Welcome to your **Mission Together** Assembly.

This assembly focuses on **Mary** and is part of our series of Marian resources. For more in this series, please visit [www.missiontogether.org.uk/marian-resources](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk/marian-resources)

The theme for this assembly is the virtue of **Generosity**.

*You may like to display this slide and listen to some music as the children enter the assembly.*

### SLIDE TWO

Today we are going to be thinking about this very special lady (point to the image of Mary on screen).

Can anybody tell us who this lady is and why she is so special?

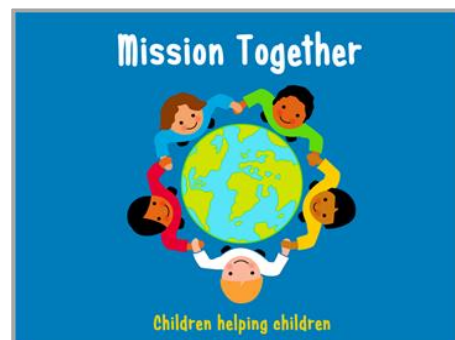
It is Mary, the mother of our Lord, Jesus.

### Glossary

**Virtue** – the trait of being morally good. A personal virtue is a characteristic showing goodness

**Generosity** – showing kindness towards others and being ready to give more than is expected

**Visitation** – the story of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth when both women were pregnant



Can anybody tell us where and when Mary lived? The picture on screen could help you.

Mary lived a very long time ago, over 2000 years ago in fact!

For most of her life, she lived in a town in the Middle East, called Nazareth. Nazareth was a small and poor town. Some people used to make fun of it, saying nothing good could ever come from a town like Nazareth.

**But God, our loving Father, always looks to find the best in everything. God saw goodness in Nazareth and in the people who lived there.**

Who else lived in Nazareth?

Jesus!

He lived there as a boy with Mary, his mother, and Joseph, his foster father.

But for the next minute, we are going to listen to a reading that explains a little about Mary's life a few weeks before Jesus was born. The reading tells us what happened when Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was also pregnant.

Let's all listen very carefully to the reading and see if you can hear why Mary was so **special**.

### SLIDE THREE

*You might like to pre-select some readers from KS2 to read different paragraphs.*

**A reading from the Gospel of St Luke** 1:39-43 (adapted)

Mary went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea. She went to Zechariah's house and greeted her cousin **Elizabeth**.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the unborn baby inside Elizabeth jumped. Then Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**.

She cried out in a loud voice, "**God has blessed you** more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to. You are the **mother of my Lord**"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Invite the children to suggest how this reading tells us that Mary is special. How has Mary been blessed and by whom?*

We hear Elizabeth exclaim that Mary has been **blessed by God** above all other women because she has been chosen to be Jesus' mother. Not only that, but the baby in Elizabeth's womb (who would grow up to be John the Baptist) is said to have 'jumped' or leapt for joy at the sound of Mary's voice.

Already, John the Baptist knew that Mary was important because she carried God's son inside her.

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### SLIDE THREE

When we listened to the reading about Mary visiting Elizabeth, we thought about how special Mary was. Elizabeth cried out that **God had blessed Mary** above other women.

To have been chosen by God she must have been a very good person: patient, kind, loving, selfless and faith-full.

The rosary beads that Mary holds on the picture remind us that she prayed often. Praying helped Mary grow close to God. In the same way it can help us grow closer to God too.

When we talk about the good things about Mary, what she was like, these are often referred to as 'virtues'. A virtue is a way of behaving that shows goodness. Some of Mary's virtues are her faithfulness, her kindness, and her caring nature.

The virtue we are going to concentrate on today is her **generosity**.

**How do we know that Mary was generous?**

*Click once to reveal the first picture.*

We know the story of how Mary was told by the Angel Gabriel that she would give birth to God's son. Mary was young and probably had plans for her life but she **selflessly** said that God's will should be done.

What other acts of generosity do you think Mary might have shown as a mother? She would have given Jesus her time and attention. She might have bought him toys or treats. She probably stayed up with him all night if he was ill.

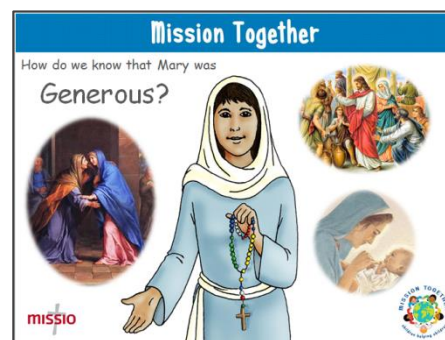
*Click once to reveal the second picture.*

In the Bible we hear about how Mary visited her cousin **Elizabeth** who was already six-months pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary then generously stayed with Elizabeth for three months, to **help** her older cousin in the last stages of pregnancy and probably to be there for the birth too.

What do you think Mary might have done to help? *Invite answers. Perhaps she helped to clean the house, made Elizabeth's meals, or went to the market for her.* How was this a generous act?

*Click once to reveal the third picture.*

Another Bible story that shows Mary's generosity is the **wedding at Cana**. This takes place much later in Mary's life when Jesus was a grown man. Jesus and his mother were at the wedding when the wedding party ran out of wine. Mary knew that Jesus could help and she encouraged him to do so. Jesus then turned water into fine wine and everyone at the wedding was amazed. Mary's actions here show her **generous nature**. When she witnessed someone in need of help, her first thought was to come to their assistance.



How do you think the wedding party felt when they ran out of wine? They were probably worried about what they could give their guests. How do you think they felt after Jesus had performed this miracle? They were probably very grateful to Jesus and Mary for their generous help.

## SLIDE FIVE

Mary is important because she agreed to carry our God's plan and become the mother of Jesus. In a special way this makes Mary our mother too and **has a lot to teach us**.

*What can we learn from Mary? Invite some suggestions.*

We have learnt about Mary's amazing **virtues**, in particular her generosity. We are not expected to be perfect – we all make mistakes – but we can **follow Mary's example**. We can try our best to be good, to be kind; to be generous.

In silence, try to think of one generous thing you can do today. Could you share with a sibling, offer to help at home, sacrifice some pocket money to help an important cause like **Mission Together**?

Now make a commitment to do that one generous thing today.

Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother. As she is **our mother** too, we know we can go to her with our prayers and concerns. So let's finish this assembly by asking Mary to look after all the children in the world. Let us pray a **Hail Mary**, followed by the **Mission Together prayer**

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**Hail Mary:**

Hail Mary, full of Grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.

Amen



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