

Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of our faith

Mother, help our faith!

Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call.

Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise.

Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith.

Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.

Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One.

Remind us that those who believe are never alone.

Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path.

And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!

Pope Francis: from his first encyclical Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith) 29th June 2013



Our Lady of Faith – from a 17th century Belgian statue. The original was found deep inside a felled tree.

Having presumably been placed outside the trunk, the statue was enveloped by wood as the tree grew.

For more information about the Shrine and the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham:

<http://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk>

For more information about the Cell of Mary, Our Lady of Faith contact:

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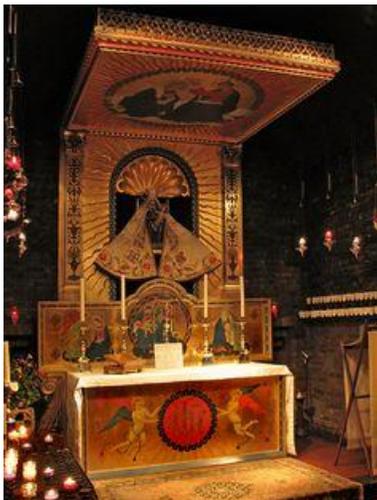
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**The Cell of Mary, Our Lady of Faith
(Society of Our Lady of Walsingham)**



Walsingham: The Shrine Church

The Society of Our Lady of Walsingham exists to deepen the life of faith and growth in holiness of all its members and to encourage prayer for the unity of Christians and the conversion of our country. The Cell of Mary, Our Lady of Faith is a local fellowship of the Society, based on the parish church of St Faith, Havant, by kind permission of the Rector, Canon Tom Kennar. Members of the Cell, inaugurated in November 2016, belong to a number of different churches in the Havant area. Members are asked to pray regularly for each other and for the Shrine. There are about three local meetings a year and an annual pilgrimage made jointly with a neighbouring cell based on St George's Waterlooville.



Our Lady of Walsingham

Where and what is Walsingham?

Walsingham is a small village in north Norfolk where in the 11th century a local noblewoman had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary asking her to erect a local representation of the home in Nazareth where the archangel Gabriel told her that she was to become the mother of God's incarnate Word.



Walsingham: ruins of the Abbey

Walsingham, known since the Middle Ages as “England’s Nazareth”, has been a place of pilgrimage for a thousand years, which honours above all the Incarnation of the Word of God, announced to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel. The Shrine was destroyed on the orders of King Henry VIII, but the memory lingered on and during the twentieth century separate Anglican and Roman Catholic shrines were re-established and there is now close collaboration and growing friendship between the two.

Walsingham now attracts tens of thousands of pilgrims every year. In 2003 it was voted England’s favourite spiritual place in a BBC poll. It seems that Mary still has the power to attract people to Jesus.

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary was in a real sense the first disciple of Jesus Christ. When she received the message of the angel and accepted it in faith she became the model for every Christian. “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word.” This was beautifully echoed by her cousin Elizabeth (the mother of St John Baptist), who declared, “Blessed is she who believed that the things said to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Mary is blessed because she received the word of God and cherished it. She is rightly said to have conceived in her heart before she conceived in her womb. No wonder all generations call her blessed.

The Cell of Mary, Our Lady of Faith

The title “Mary, Our Lady of Faith” as the title of our local cell is a constant reminder that being a Christian means nothing at all if it is not a matter of following the example of Mary and her answer to the angel, “be it unto me according to thy word.”



Mary always points to Jesus and encourages us to follow him. Fittingly, her last recorded words in the New Testament are, “Do whatever he tells you.” What Mary says to the servants at the wedding in Cana, she says to us too. Great things can happen, will happen, if we do what Jesus tells us.