The Annunciation - a reading from the Gospel of St Luke 1:27-38 Good News Translation

The angel __ __ __ __ __ __ __ was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of King __ __ __ __ __ .

And the young woman's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!'

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to understand what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be __ __ __ __ __ __ , Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ King David. And he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his __ __ __ __ __ __ __ there will be no end.'

And Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be?' And the angel answered her, 'The __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God. And behold, your cousin Elizabeth in her old age is also pregnant and will have a son, and this is the sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.'

And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the __ __ __ __ __ __ __ of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.'

And the angel departed from her.

Use the words below to fill in the scripture's blank spaces.

ancestor

afraid

Gabriel

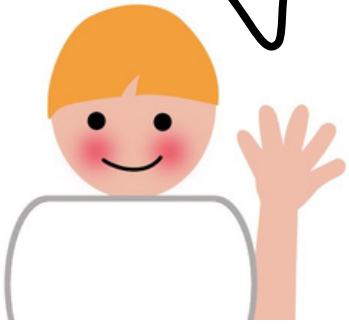
Kingdom

Holy Spirit

servant

David

Did you know, the first half of the 'Hail Mary' prayer, is based on this reading from St Luke.



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The Annunciation questions

1. Imagine you were present when the angel visited Mary. Describe Mary's reaction and any feelings she may have had. How do you think Mary's faith helped her?

2. Why do you think Saint Luke mentions King David in this story? Try to use words from the text to support your answer.

3. At the end of the Gospel passage, Mary agrees to being the mother of Jesus. Her 'Yes' to God's request changed history. What prayer reminds us of Mary's brave choice to be God's servant and how important she is for Christians?

The Annunciation answers

❶ Imagine you were present when the angel visited Mary. Describe Mary's reaction and any feelings she may have had. How do you think Mary's faith helped her?

Mary looked shocked and anxious when the angel Gabriel first appeared. But after Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid, she calmed down and became more confident and courageous. She even asked the angel questions. I think Mary must have felt very honoured to be chosen by God to become the mother of Jesus, but still she stayed humble. I think her faith and trust in God's love for her gave her the confidence to say 'Yes' to being the mother of God.

❷ Why do you think Saint Luke mentions King David in this story? Try to use words from the text to support your answer.

Although a humble shepherd, King David was chosen by God to be king over Israel (i.e. the house of Jacob). God promised David that one of his descendants would reign forever. God's promise to David was fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ and King of the Universe, whose reign will never end. Mary was engaged to Joseph. Joseph was a descendent of King David. This meant King David was the ancestor of Jesus.

❸ At the end of the Gospel passage, Mary agrees to being the mother of Jesus. Her 'Yes' to God's request changed history. What prayer reminds us of Mary's brave choice to be God's servant and how important she is for Christians?

The Hail Mary Prayer.