



Why Orthodoxy? Conference:

Venerating St. Mary

How Protestants View St Mary

VS

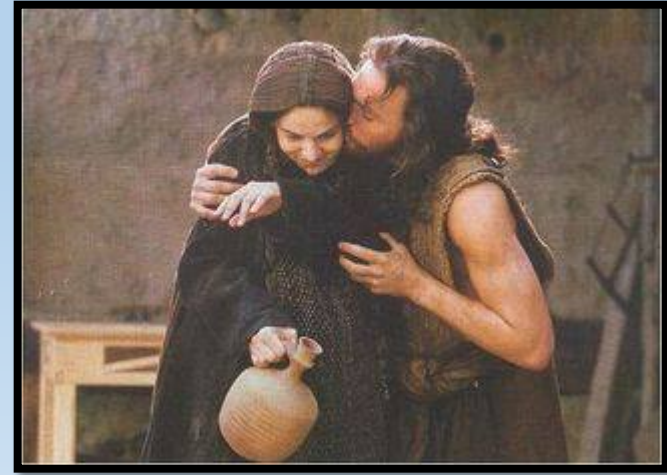
How we view St Mary

- Just a **normal woman**, like any of us
- “Our sister”
- “The eggshell that loses its value after the chick hatches.”
- “Mother of Jesus” NOT “Mother of God”

VS

- “Behold your mother” He didn’t just say it to St John, but to the Church. **She is our mother** – Hence why it is illogical to call her sister.
- Honour one’s mother = first commandment, should we not venerate our mother?
- She is the **blessed one among women** and none received the glory that she did. God chose her above all women, because no other woman has had qualities like her in all of time.

What the Bible tells us:



- **"For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Lk.1: 48)** – Venerating St Mary commenced at nativity and will continue to the end of ages
- Elizabeth, the Angels and the Prophets venerated St Mary!

Venerating the Virgin = Venerating Christ



- Jesus the light of the world = St Mary is mother of the light
- Jesus is the holy one = St Mary is mother of the holy one
- Jesus is saviour ('Jesus' means saviour) = St Mary is mother of the Saviour
- Jesus is God = St Mary is the mother of God

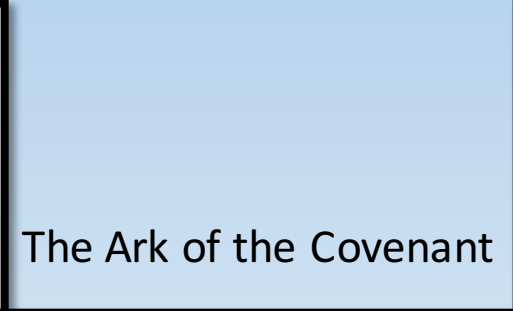
- Because what we believe about St Mary shows us what we really believe about Jesus!

Titles we give to St Mary in Church

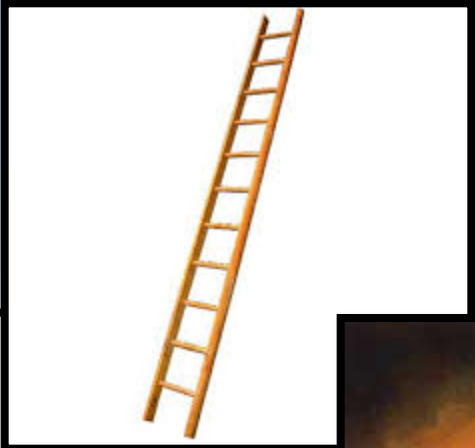


The Manna Pot

City of God/Zion



The Ark of the Covenant



Aaron's Rod



Contradicting title? In the 3rd Hour:



Important: We do NOT pray to St Mary

We pray TO God. **We address her in prayer**, as we do to nature, our soul, the angels and even the devil!



The Ever Virgin

Phrases that, wrongly interpreted, oppose the perpetual virginity of St. Mary:

- The phrase 'her firstborn Son' (Lk.2: 7); (Matt.1: 25). Opposers think that the word 'firstborn' means the first of His siblings.
- The phrase 'your wife' which was said to Joseph of the Virgin (Matt.1: 20), and the word 'woman' in general wherever it refers to the Virgin Mary (Matt.1: 24).
- The verses in which the words 'His brothers' are mentioned, such as (Matt.12: 46; 13: 54-56); (Acts 1: 14); (Gal. 1: 18,19)

