

Homily Solemnity of Mary (1.1.19)

Mary, the symbol of our call to bring Christ to the world.
Happy Evangelisation!

Happy New Year!

It's a lovely feast day today. It used to be a holy day of obligation ending the Christmas Octave and consecrating the New Year... I mean it was lovely last night to see all the fireworks at the New Year for Our Lady, wasn't it? It's nice to know the world celebrates this feast. (Laughter)

And the thing is too that Mary is a powerful symbol, not just of discipleship, but of our vocation to give Christ to the world. Which means we have to conceive in our hearts the Word, and make it part of the fabric of our being. So that we in a way, share the motherhood of Jesus in the sense that we, as she is Mother of all the living, we pass on life through our faith, hopefully, in grace and action.

And there's a lovely antiphon that the Cistercian monks sing after evening prayer, which declares Mary mother and sister, and we don't often hear that said. We often tend to hear just Mary the Mother of God, but our sister in faith, they sing.

And she reminds us that she walks with us as part of the church. Because she's not part of the deity, she's part of us. And it's a great symbol that Jesus, the Forerunner, has gone before us, and as St. Paul said the first fruits come after him; to follow Mary is part of those first fruits of the redemption with all the sanctified and glorified in heaven.