

## Weekly Readings:

This week we are invited to deepen on how Mary lived with a strong faith in the transcendence of her life. Mary knew that **“all generations will call her blessed” (Luke 1:48)** because she consciously passed on the faith to the next generation. We see an example of this when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth in Luke 1:39-56. We are invited to also live aware of the positive transcendence our faith can have in our world. Let us learn from Mary how we can pass on the faith to the next generation and bring Jesus into the world as Mary did.

**Day 1 Luke 1:46-56** **“Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed for the Almighty has done great things for me...”**

Today, we are invited to meditate on Mary’s life and how she lived her life with a vision and certainty of her transcendence in the world. Hence, we see Mary doing two things to ascertain the transcendence of her life: firstly, she lived with faith in God’s will and promise over her life, and secondly, she shared with others the great things God had done in her life to ensure that she passed on her faith to the next generation so that they could also recognise the living God and his works in their life.

Through Mary’s encounter with her cousin Elizabeth, we see that Mary successfully transmitted her joy to Elizabeth and passed on the baton of faith that enabled Elizabeth to do the same. Let us dialogue with Mary today and ask her how we can also live with a vision of God’s transcendence through our life and pass on our faith to the next generation (someone in our life today). What greatness has God done in our life and how can we proclaim that greatness today?

**Day 2 Lk 1:24-38** **“Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.”**

This reading outlines some of the great things the Lord has done in Mary’s life. God included Mary in his plan of salvation of bringing Jesus into the world. Like Mary, we are called to creatively bring Jesus into the world through our conversations with those around us and through our gestures of love and courage in proclaiming God to the world. We are invited to dialogue with God today and ask him how he wants us to

concretely bring Jesus into the world as Mary did.

The Angel Gabriel shared with Mary that Jesus will be great. Mary clearly understood that the greatness of her life was God and not herself. Do we also have that clear in our life? Or are there moments in our life where we are self-absorbed and proclaim our own greatness rather than God’s greatness? For example, do we find ourselves boasting continuously about our greatness, criticizing others unnecessarily or judging others intentions behind their actions? How is God inviting us to recognize Jesus’ presence in our life today so that we can walk with awareness of his greatness and, thus, invite those around us to also recognize Jesus’ greatness in their own life?

**Day 3 Ezekiel 3:16-21** **“After seven days the word of Yahweh was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as watchman for the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them from me.’”**

God has appointed each one of us as watchmen over the life of Jesus within us and the other; over the faith, dignity and relationship with God each person has. Mary also lived as a **“watchman”** over the House of Israel. She stood by her son, Jesus during the difficult persecutions and misunderstandings he endured. After each act of anger and violence towards Jesus we can perhaps imagine that Jesus may have shared these experiences with his mother Mary. Imagine Mary’s reaction to the harsh treatment of Jesus from certain Pharisees, scribes or Jewish leaders? How did Mary act as a watchman in Jesus’ life? She would have recalled the humanly speaking impossible plans God had for her life and repeated her “yes” to God’s plans. Therefore, she would have understood why Jesus was also saying “Yes” to God’s plans at the cost of being ridiculed, persecuted and crucified.

Mary stood by Jesus because she loved him. Do we stand by Jesus in our own life or the life of others and act as a watchman of God’s plan of salvation? Is there anyone who God is inviting us to warn because their actions are going against God’s plan of salvation? Is there anyone in our life that we perceive is justifying their disconnection from God or their living out of values that are not of the Kingdom of God? What areas in our life does God want to transform so that we can be better watchmen in our world?

**Day 4 John 15:10-14** **“This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.”**

One of the ways we can be authentic watchmen in our world is by being faithful to living out today’s reading. Jesus invites us to be authentic friends that lay down our lives for them. But, how can we ensure that this command of Jesus does not remain an abstract command but a concrete one? How can we live out this command in our daily life? One of the best ways to do so is to concretely dialogue with Jesus about each of our friends or family members and to ask Jesus: “How do you want me to lay down my life for them today?” e.g. it could be through our conversation where we lay down our comfort of being “self-absorbed” in conversations. Perhaps God asks us to make efforts in conversations to come out of ourselves. Perhaps our friend may bring up a topic that hurts Jesus and we are invited by God to lay down our reputation and desire to be approved in order to share God’s perspective of that topic. Perhaps God invites us to lay down our life by being like Mary, a person that stands by Jesus, his words and the Church’s teaching at the cost of being persecuted for our faith. Today, let us ask Mary to help us discover in a new way how to live out this reading.

**Day 5 Isaiah 52:7-12** **“How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of the messenger announcing peace, of the messenger of good news, who proclaims salvation and says to Zion, ‘Your God is king!’”**

This is a powerful reading in the Old Testament that highlights the important role people have in bringing the Good News to people. We can recall how Mother Mary was the **“feet of the messenger,”** announcing the Good News **“on the mountains”** to people such as Elizabeth, the shepherds, the three wise men, her neighbours and so forth. Mary lived with a vision of the transcendence of her life and took seriously her role of passing on faith to the next generation. As Christians, we are called to pass on the baton of our faith to the next generation. In order to do this we need certain gifts from God such as courage and fortitude. We also need to cultivate an authentic love for the other. If we recall our own personal history, many people may have played an important role of passing on the baton of faith in our lives such as our grandparents, family members, teachers, friends and so forth. Who played an important role of passing

on the faith to us? Today, we can say to them: "All generations will call you blessed". Who does God invite us to pass on our faith to so that all generations will call us blessed? Let us make a concrete plan today with God as to how to live out this resolution. E.g. we can call a person to invite them to have a cup of coffee and transmit Christ's love to them, we can teach someone to pray with the Word of God, we can share with someone that God is the reason that we are happy, etc.

**Day 6 2 Timothy 2:1-13** "Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me through many witnesses so that they in turn will be able to teach others."

St Paul is also another influential figure in our Church that shows us he believed in the transcendence of his life. St Paul tirelessly formed disciples wherever he went. He instructed St Timothy in the faith and made sure to instruct him to also do the same. St Paul gave him a clear criteria: "Pass on to reliable people what you have heard from me..." In other words, he asked St Timothy to value the teachings St Paul passed onto him. Do we value the teachings of the faith that we have received from people? What teachings have been passed onto us? Have we lived out these teachings? Or have we disregarded them and let them go to waste? How does God invite us today to value these teachings more? E.g. to bring the teachings to mind and put them into practice. St Paul also instructed St Timothy to have a greater transcendence in this world by seeking out "reliable people" to pass the faith on to. This means that St Timothy had a specific mission: to walk on earth actively seeking out these "reliable people" and finding ways to sit down with them and pass on Christ's teachings. Who are the "reliable people" we too can pass on our faith too?

Finally, St Paul gave St Timothy a third instruction: "...so that they in turn will be able to teach others." In other words, God invites us to pass on God's teachings with a specific purpose: that this "reliable person" also passes on the faith to the next generation. When we do this, we are authentically loving God and the next generation and safeguarding the faith in the next generation. Do we believe in the positive transcendence our life has? How can we live out St Paul's instructions today?

**Day 7 1 Timothy 6:11-20** "My dear Timothy, take great care of all that has been entrusted to you. Turn away from godless philosophical discussions and the contradictions of the 'knowledge' which is not knowledge at all; by adopting this, some have missed the goal of faith."

When praying today's reading, we can imagine Mother Mary faithfully living out this reading in her life. Mary would have taken great care of all that was entrusted to her by God. We know that Mary took her role as "Mother of Jesus Christ" seriously and this was manifested when she lay Jesus in swaddling clothes in the manger (Luke 2:7); when she presented Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:22-37), when she looked for Jesus while he was lost in the temple (Luke 2:41-49), and when she faithfully accompanied Jesus throughout his life, death and resurrection. Mary chose to take care of all that was entrusted to her.

How is God inviting us today to take care of Jesus' life in us? Perhaps by setting aside more time for prayer? Or by being more conscious of the presence of Jesus within us? Or by being more aware of the presence and needs of Jesus in the people around us? Or by obeying God's request he communicates to us in prayer? St Paul invited St Timothy to "turn away from godless philosophical discussions and the contradictions of the 'knowledge' which is not knowledge at all." Do we do the same? What is our reaction when we find ourselves in "godless philosophical discussions"? Do we allow ourselves to stray from our conviction in God's Word and will? Or do we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us through the conversation? Today, let us ask the Holy Spirit to instruct us on how to better take care of all that has been entrusted to us by God in us and in the other.

Prepared by the Verbum Dei Missionaries,  
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Website: [verbumdeibrisbane.weebly.com](http://verbumdeibrisbane.weebly.com)

# School of the Word

## Weekly Readings

*"All generations will call me blessed"*

*(Luke 1:48)*

### Week 2: The Transcendence of our faith



*"...I have appointed you as watchman for the House of Israel..."*

*(Ezekiel 2:17)*