



Vox Populi

18 March 2026

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

With these words, the Angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary and announces to her she will bear the Son of God.

Along with Christmas, the Annunciation is one of two celebrations of the Incarnation throughout the liturgical year. It is the time of the fulfilment of God's promises and preparations.

We celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary's *fiat* (Latin for "Let it be done") and her total trust, obedience and surrender to God's will, which initiates the incarnation.

The feast has been celebrated since as early as the 6th century, beginning in the East and spreading to Rome by the 7th century.

In a beautiful way, the Solemnity of the Annunciation connects Christmas and Easter. It is a Christmas feast, celebrating the joy of the incarnation of Jesus Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, yet it occurs within the Season of Lent.

It is a moment of joy within the Season of Lent, especially as we prepare to enter Holy Week, a time of heightened solemnity and reflection.