

# LEEDS CATHEDRAL

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST ANNE

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF UNFAILING HELP



18<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

MONDAY TO SATURDAY – 12.00NOON

SUNDAY - 10.00AM

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## THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF UNFAILING HELP

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An 'icon' is a Christian picture that tells a story or teaches a truth. Traditionally, icons have been associated with the Eastern Church, but have played a part in the Western Church also. The icon of Our Lady of Unfailing Help is an icon that tells of the Passion and Death of Jesus, and of the suffering of Mary his Mother.

The original picture of Our Lady of Unfailing Help was painted on the island of Crete over five-hundred years ago. The picture was stolen by a merchant in 1498 and brought by him from Crete to Rome the following year. It is recorded in the history of the picture that the merchant fell seriously ill and fearing death he asked a friend to place the picture in a church where it could be once again seen by the faithful. The merchant died, but his friend held on to the picture and it was placed by his wife in their house. After a series of visions of Our Lady, the friend was finally convinced to part with the picture and place it in accordance with Our Lady's request in the Church of St Matthew in Rome. The Church of St Matthew was destroyed in 1798, but the picture was kept safe by the Augustinian friars. Only when a new church was built on the site of the old St Matthew's could Our Lady's request be fulfilled once again. The new church was the Redemptorist church of St Alphonsus, the obvious place for the picture, so near its former home. And so, the Pope requested that the picture should be moved to the Redemptorist church.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> 1866, the picture of Our Lady of Unfailing Help was solemnly installed in this new church of St Alphonsus in Rome. The first copy of the picture to leave Rome came to Bishop Eton, the Redemptorist church in Liverpool. Since then, copies of the picture have been taken to the four corners of the world.

In June 1867, Pope Pius IX approved the coronation of the icon by Vatican chapter, and thus thousands of copies made from the original since this date show Our Lady wearing a crown. However, the icon incorporated in the Shrine in the Cathedral church of St Anne is uncrowned, and must, therefore, have been painted prior to 1867. Our Lady of Unfailing Help was declared the principle patroness of the newly created Diocese of Leeds in 1878.

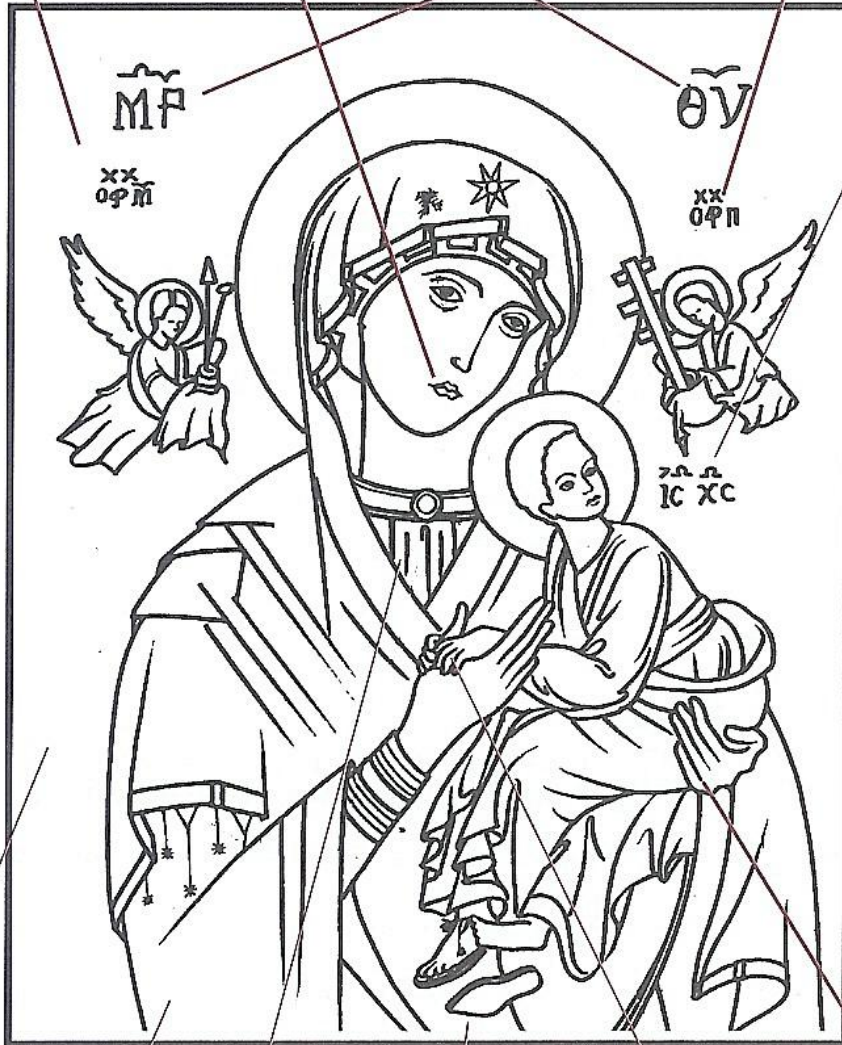
Greek initials for Archangel Michael, who holds the lance and the sponge. 'Michael' means 'who is like God?'

Greek initials for Archangel Gabriel, who holds the cross of Christ. 'Gabriel' means 'God is strong.'

Mary's mouth is small, symbolising her few recorded words and the depth of her contemplation.

Greek initials for Mother of God.

Greek initials for Jesus Christ.



Gold background symbolises heaven.

Red tunic, the colour worn by virgins at the time of Christ.

The Christ-child clings trustingly to his mother.

The mother's supporting hand.

The colour blue, worn by mothers in Palestine.

The falling sandal indicating his alarm at the thought of his Passion and death.

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## ANGELUS

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**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;

R/. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R/. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made Flesh,

R/. And dwelt amongst us.

Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son, was made known by a message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

V/. May the Divine assistance remain always with us.

R/. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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## OPENING PRAYER

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**Celebrant:** Brothers and Sisters, we have come before the image of Our Lady of Unfailing Help that she will pray for us to God, in praise, in petition, and in thanksgiving. Let us say together:

**All:** Our Lady of Unfailing Help, throughout your life you were open to God's Holy Spirit, faithful in prayer, willing in obedience and generous in love.

Pray for us, that we may be open to God's word and filled with the Holy Spirit. You were faithful in prayer; pray that we too may follow Christ your Son with the same spirit of prayer, with a willing heart, and in love for Him, who first loved us. Amen.

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## SCRIPTURE READING AND REFLECTION

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## HYMN

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*Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June*

O Mother blest, whom God bestows  
on sinners and on just,  
what joy, what hope thou givest those  
who in thy mercy trust.

*Thou art clement, thou art chaste,  
Mary, thou art fair:  
of all mother sweetest, best;  
none with thee compare.*

O heavenly mother, mistress sweet!  
It never yet was told  
that suppliant sinner left thy feet  
unpitied, unconsolated.

O mother pitful and mild,  
cease not to pray for me;  
for I do love thee as a child,  
and sigh for love of thee.

Most powerful mother, we all know  
thy Son denies thee nought;  
thou askest, whishest it, and lo!  
his power thy will hath wrought.

O mother blest, for me obtain  
ungrateful though I be,  
to love that God who first could deign  
to show such love for me.

### ***Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June***

As I kneel before you,  
as I bow my head in prayer,  
take this day, make it yours  
and fill me with your love.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu.*

All I have I give you,  
ev'ry dream and wish are yours.  
Mother of Christ, Mother of mine,  
present them to my Lord.

As I kneel before you,  
and I see Your smiling face,  
ev'ry thought, ev'ry word  
is lost in your embrace.

### ***Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June***

Holy Virgin, by God's decree,  
you were called eternally;  
that He could give His Son to our race.  
Mary, we praise you, hail full of grace.

*Ave, ave, ave, Maria.*

By your faith and loving accord,  
as the handmaid of the Lord,  
you undertook God's plan to embrace.  
Mary, we thank you, hail full of grace.

Joy to God you gave and expressed,  
of all women none so blessed,  
when in mankind your Son took his place.  
Mary, we love you, hail, full of grace.

Refuge for your children so weak,  
sure protection all can seek.  
Problems of life you help us to face.  
Mary, we trust you, hail full of grace.

To our needy world of today  
love and beauty you portray,  
showing the path to Christ we must trace.  
Mary, our mother, hail, full of grace.

### ***Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June***

Hail, Queen of Heaven, the ocean Star!  
Guide of the wanderer here below!  
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care:  
save us from peril and from woe.  
Mother of Christ, star of the sea,  
pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste and spotless maid,  
we sinners make our prayers through thee;  
remind thy son that he has paid  
the price of our iniquity.  
Virgin most pure, star of the sea,  
pray for the sinner, pray for me.

Sojourners in this vale of tears,  
to thee, blest advocate, we cry;  
pity our sorrows, calm our fears,  
and soothe with hope our misery.  
Refuge in grief, star of the sea,  
pray for the mourner, pray for me.

And while to Him who reigns above,  
in Godhead One, in Persons Three,  
the source of life, of grace and love,  
homage we pay on bended knee,  
do thou, bright Queen, star of the sea,  
pray for thy children, pray for me.

***Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June***

Immaculate Mary!  
Our hearts are on fire,  
that title so wondrous  
fills all our desire.

*Ave, ave, ave Maria!*  
*Ave, ave, ave Maria!*

We pray for God's glory,  
may His kingdom come!  
We pray for His vicar,  
our Father, and Rome.

We pray for our mother,  
the church upon earth,  
and bless, sweetest Lady,  
the land of our birth.

For poor, sick, afflicted  
thy mercy we crave;  
and comfort the dying,  
thou light of the grave.

O bless us, dear Lady,  
with blessings from heaven.  
And to our petitions  
let answer be given.

In death's solemn moment,  
our mother, be nigh;  
as children of Mary,  
O teach us to die.



And crown thy sweet mercy  
with this special grace,  
to behold soon in heaven  
God's ravishing face.

To God be all glory  
and worship for aye,  
and to God's virgin mother  
an endless Ave.

*Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June*

O purest of creatures! Sweet mother, sweet maid;  
the one spotless womb wherein Jesus was laid.  
Dark night hath come down on us, mother, and we  
look out for thy shining, sweet star of the sea.

Deep night hath come down on this rough-spoken world.  
And the banners of darkness are boldly unfurled;  
and the tempest-tossed Church, all her eyes are on thee.  
They look to thy shining, sweet star of the sea.

He gazed on thy soul, it was spotless and fair;  
for the empire of sin, it had never been there;  
none ever had owned thee, dear mother, but he,  
and He blessed thy clear shining, sweet star of the sea.

Earth gave Him one lodging; 'twas deep in thy breast,  
and God found a home where the sinner finds rest;  
his home and his hiding-place, both were in thee;  
he was won by thy shining, sweet star of the sea.

Oh, blissful and calm was the wonderful rest  
that thou gavest thy God in thy virginal breast;  
for the heaven he left he found heaven in thee,  
and he shone in thy shining, sweet star of the sea.

*Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June*

I'll sing a hymn to Mary,  
the Mother of my God,  
the Virgin of all virgins,  
of David's royal blood.  
O teach me, holy Mary,  
a loving song to frame,  
when wicked men blaspheme thee,  
to love and bless thy name.

O noble Tower of David,  
of gold and ivory,  
the Ark of God's own promise,  
the gate of heav'n to me,  
to live and not to love thee,  
would fill my soul with shame;  
when wicked men blaspheme thee,  
I'll love and bless thy name.

The Saints are high in glory,  
with golden crowns so bright;  
but brighter far is Mary,  
upon her throne of light.  
O that which God did give thee,  
let mortal ne'er disclaim;  
when wicked men blaspheme thee,  
I'll love and bless thy name.

But in the crown of Mary,  
there lies a wondrous gem,  
as Queen of all the Angels,  
which Mary shares with them:  
no sin hath e'er defiled thee,  
so doth our faith proclaim;  
when wicked men blaspheme thee,  
I'll love and bless thy name.

## *Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June*

Daily, daily, sing to Mary,  
sing my soul, her praises due;  
all her feasts, her actions honour,  
with the heart's devotion true.  
Lost in wond'ring contemplation  
be her majesty confessed:  
call her Mother, call her Virgin,  
happy Mother, Virgin blest.

Sing, my tongue, the Virgin's trophies,  
who for us her Maker bore;  
for the curse of old inflicted,  
peace and blessings to restore.  
Sing in songs of praise unending,  
sing the world's majestic Queen;  
weary not nor faint in telling  
all the gifts she gives to men.

All my sense, heart, affections,  
strive to sound her glory forth;  
spread abroad the sweet memorials,  
of the Virgin's priceless worth,  
where the voice of music thrilling,  
where the tongues of eloquence,  
that can utter hymns beseeming  
all her matchless excellence?

All our joy do flow from Mary,  
all then join her praise to sing;  
trembling sing the Virgin Mother,  
Mother of our Lord and King,  
while we sing her awful glory,  
far above our fancy's reach,  
let our hearts be quick to offer  
love the heart alone can teach.

*Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June*

Holy light on earth's horizon,  
star of hope to fallen man,  
light amid a world of shadows,  
dawn of God's redemptive plan.  
Chosen from eternal ages,  
thou alone of all our race,  
by thy Son's atoning merits  
wast conceived in perfect grace.

Mother of the world's Redeemer,  
promised from the dawn of time;  
how could one so highly favoured  
share the guilt of Adam's crime?  
Sun and moon and stars adorn thee,  
sinless Eve, triumphant sign.  
Thou art she who crushed the serpent,  
Mary, pledge of life divine.

Earth below and highest Heaven  
praise the splendour of thy state;  
thou who now art crowned in glory  
wast conceived immaculate.  
Hail, beloved of the Father,  
mother of His only Son,  
mystic bride of Love eternal,  
hail, thou fair and spotless one!

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## PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF UNFAILING HELP

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**Celebrant:** Let us now turn to Our Lady asking her to pray for us.

**All:** Dear Mother, the Lord looked on you in your humility, and chose you to be the mother of His Son; and now all ages call you blessed. God has worked marvels for you. You witnessed the death of your Son on the cross, and your continuing faith has brought you to witness His victory over death, filling your heart with joy and praise.

By the example of your life, you showed that God's mercy is on those who fear Him. You sang of the justice of the one who casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly; you told of the promise made to Abraham, Sarah, and all their descendants forever. You are now with the saints, singing the praises of God, and praying for us, who need your prayers.

Pray with us to the Lord, and as our prayers arise before Him like incense, He will hear us and answer us, according to His promise.

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## ROSARY

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**Celebrant:** We now pray the (Joyful/Luminous/Sorrowful/Glorious) Mysteries of the Rosary for our Diocese of Leeds and all of our parishes, schools and other organisations, for Bishop Marcus, for the priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, lay faithful and employed staff of the Diocese, for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, for families, for the sick and those in any kind of need. We pray in particular for an end to the current pandemic, for those suffering its effects and those working in the fight against it. We bring our personal intentions to our lady as we unite in prayer.

***The Apostles' Creed (to be recited at the beginning of the Rosary)***

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

***Fatima Prayer (to be recited after each decade of the Rosary)***

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,  
lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

***Hail, Holy Queen (to be recited at the end of the Rosary)***

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope!  
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.  
To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears!  
Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries in the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Have mercy on us.

Mother of Unfailing Help.

Pray for us.

St Joseph.

Pray for us.

St Anne.

Pray for us.

St Wilfrid.

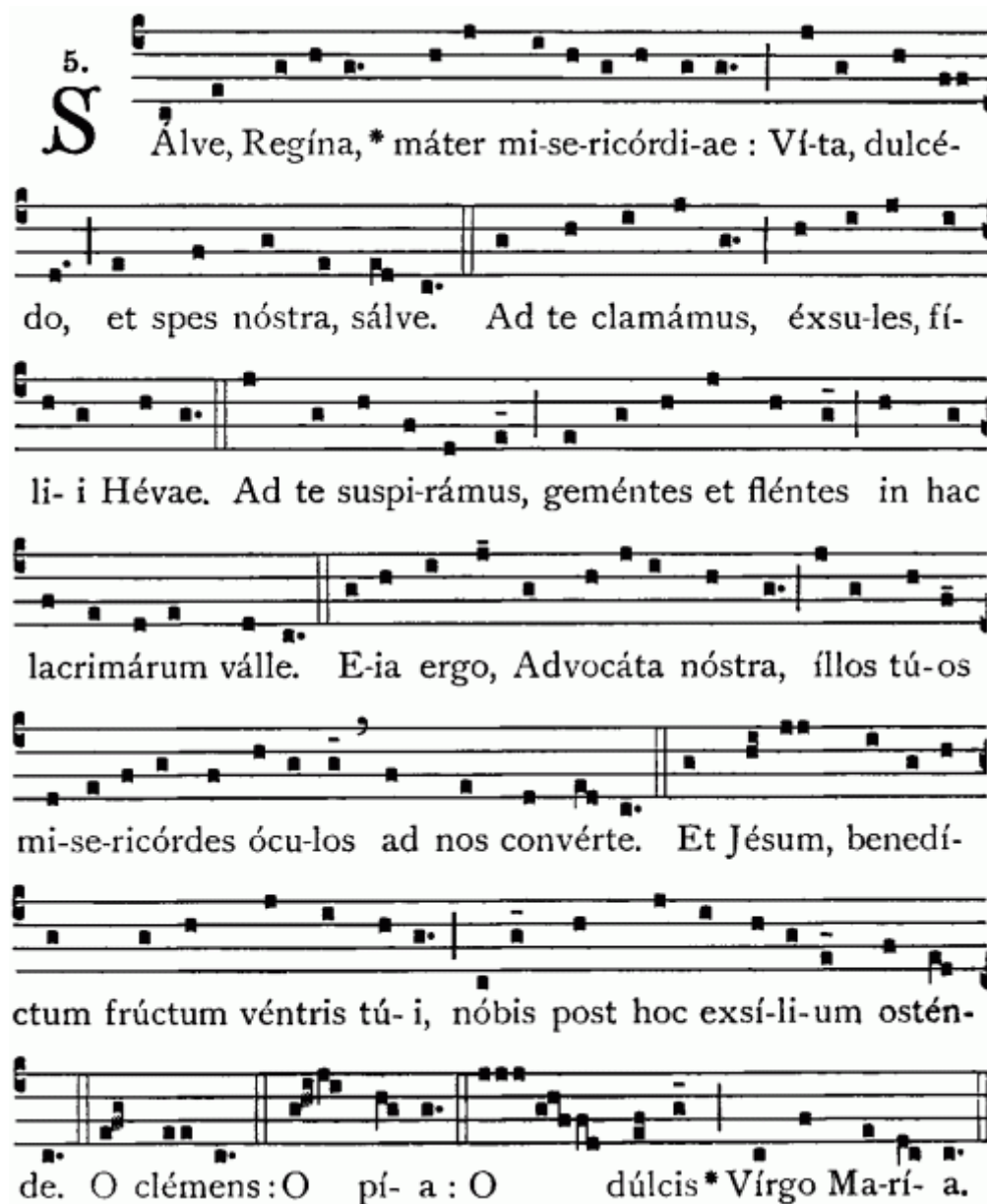
Pray for us.

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# MARIAN ANTHEM

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5.  
**S**álve, Regína, \* máter mi-se-ricórdi-ae : Ví-ta, dulcé-  
do, et spes nóstra, sálve. Ad te clamámus, éxsu-les, fí-  
li- i Hévae. Ad te suspi-rámus, geméntes et fléntes in hac  
lacrimárum vátte. E-ia ergo, Advocáta nóstra, íllos tú-os  
mi-se-ricórdes ócu-los ad nos convérte. Et Jésum, benedí-  
ctum frúctum véntris tú-i, nóbis post hoc exsíl-i-um ostén-  
de. O clémens : O pí- a : O dúlcis \* Vírgo Ma-rí- a.






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