

## **Donnybrook**

20 December 2021

### **Welcome**

One of the ways of reading Scripture is to see ourselves, our story, in the Gospel story. This would seem especially hard in the case of the Annunciation, so specific to Mary and to the birth of Jesus.

### **Topic**

Perhaps this much might help.

### **Steps**

First of all, there are actually other annunciation stories. In the Old Testament, we find very similar accounts before the conception and birth of Ishmael, Isaac and Samson. They follow a standard pattern, used here by Luke. An angel appears, the recipient is frightened and so on.

Secondly, all this happened so that we might experience the grace of God in Jesus. Remarkable things are said about Jesus – to present him as not just as the Son of God but also as the Messiah and our saviour. One phrase has found its way into the Creed we say it every Sunday: *of his kingdom, there will be no end.*

Finally, in the Annunciation, Luke begins a portrait of Mary as the ideal disciple – the one who listened and said yes, who heard the word of God and treasured it, who is found at prayer on the day of Pentecost. That ideal disciple is for us to follow. Mary said, Let what you have said be done to me; each of us is called to respond in our own situation: Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will (Hebrews).

### **Conclusion**

The story of the annunciation is indeed special but we are in there too, much more than we usually think.