

Galadriel and the Assumption- 15 August 2019

Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield

Beautiful she is, sir! Lovely! Sometimes like a great tree in flower, sometimes like a white daffadowndilly, small and slender like. Hard as di'monds, soft as moonlight. Warm as sunlight, cold as frost in the stars. Proud and far-off as a snow-mountain, and as merry as any lass I ever saw with daisies in her hair in springtime. Who is this? Have any of you read *The Lord of the Rings*? She is the elven Queen Galadriel. But it's interesting that if you go into any Church, any Catholic institution, any Catholic home, everywhere you will see images of Galadriel. Because of course in describing her, Tolkien was describing the Virgin Mary. (And this goes for the whole book: if you want to understand the Catholic Church, and the history of everything God has done and is doing, the most beautiful expression of this, aside from the bible, is *the Lord of the Rings*.)

And this is what we see in the first reading. Mary as the beautiful, pure and powerful queen of the cosmos who, by the grace of her son, is untouchable by Satan, and drives him away. **So first point: if you are in darkness and want immediate light**, if you are in ugliness and want beauty, if you are amongst evil and want to touch pure good - reach straight away for Mary. Be close to her. And the devil can't touch you.

A second point: **this feast reminds us that you will be around for the rest of eternity**. Death is not the end. True you weren't always around: God created us. But now that you are here, that you exist, you will exist forever. Made in God's image, while you will go on existing forever like him. And nothing you or anybody else can do will change that. That's how important you are. Rocks and trees and animals, when they're dead they're gone. Not you: you are too noble, important and beautiful. So it's a good chance to reflect: how do I want to live my eternity? Do I want to embrace my nobility? Because it doesn't start when I'm dead. I'll still be the same person. Eternity is already happening now. So how do you want to live your eternity?

Which brings me to the last point: **today also reminds us that we are wanted by God**. Not just that, *oh God, he likes my company*. But like a passionate lover, like a fiancée, there is no moment that God does not look at you as a marvel, ache for you, and spend time serving you constantly. Now you don't have to have that. You can be an atheist and have nothing. Because that's what atheists believe in: nothing. In today's feast, God reaches out to us, through this witnessed miracle of Mary's assumption body and soul into heaven, saying, *there is a beautiful option for you. An infinitely beautiful, unending option for you. Let my infinite love into your heart so that your heart is always overflowing with the purity and goodness of my love*.

Is this what you desire? Then give yourself to God, live the commandments, go to confession each month, go to mass every Sunday, and spend at least 10 minutes in silent prayer every day: because that's where you will receive these things.