

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A feast day celebrated in the Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican Churches, if not by most other denominations. The day marks the occasion of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she was to be the mother of Christ (Luke I; 26-38). In England it used to be called Lady Day. The feast was started in the 8th century, but only much later was it assigned to this date i.e. nine months before Christmas Day. Many artists have painted their interpretation of this story.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Who do you think the main two people are in the pictures?
How do you feel when you get some good news?
What sort of news is good news?
- 3 Talk about good news and bad news.

The Story of the Annunciation



The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said to her "Greetings favoured one" said the angel "Do not be afraid"



The angel went on to tell Mary that she was to have a baby boy.

This baby boy would be called the Son of the most high God.



Mary asked the angel how it would happen.

The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would bless her and her son would be called Jesus God's Son and he would be a great person.



**Mary agreed and
the angel left her.**