



THE ANGELUS

The Angelus Prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary.....

(The Church bell is rung 3 times)

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
R. Be it done to me according to your word.
Hail Mary.....

(The Church bell is rung 3 times)

V. And the Word was made flesh:
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary.....

(The Church bell is rung 3 times)

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises
of Christ.

(The Church bell is rung 9 times)

(all say together)

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your
grace into our hearts, that we, to whom
the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was
made known by the 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.

What is the Angelus?

The Angelus is a devotion that gives honour to the celebration of God becoming a man (The Incarnation) and is recited three times a day; in the morning, at Noon and in the evening. The prayer is usually accompanied by the ringing of the Church bells.

The name "Angelus" is taken from the Latin phrase *angelus Domini* which begins the opening words of the prayer, "The angel of the Lord...". The devotion proclaims the words of scripture and celebrates the angel's appearance to Mary (The Annunciation) and his revelation to her of God's message about the birth of Jesus, Mary's response to God's will and the moment when the Word (Jesus) becomes flesh and lives among us.

Each of these sentences from scripture are followed by a Hail Mary; an ancient prayer of the Church that celebrates God's wonderful news. Finally, a prayer is said together that continues in this celebration of Jesus' presence in our world.

The history of this devotion is very difficult to trace, but the custom appears to go back as far as the 10th Century in England and began with the practise of ringing the bell in the evening at monasteries to summon the monks for Night Prayer. By the 13th Century, people were following the Franciscans and reciting three Hail Mary's at the ringing of the evening bell.

Later on people began to say the Angelus three times a day; in the morning, in the middle of the day, and in the evening. The ringing of the Church bells signalled to people to stop what they were doing for a moment and say this prayer in praise and thanksgiving and thereby making the day holy to God.