



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Readings: Genesis 3: 9-15 20, Psalm 97, Ephesians 1: 3-6 11-12,  
Luke 1: 28**

There are three fundamental questions that arise immediately in the mind of the educated Protestant about the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Why would God require such an eventuality and how could it be done?

If Mary was Immaculate, how come she was the only person who didn't need Jesus to save her?

If it's so important, why isn't it in the Bible?

1) For Jesus to be born without sin, perfect God and perfect Man, there can be no genetic stain of the consequence of Adam's fall in His bloodline. As the Son of God we can be sure of the absolute holiness of the Father. For the Messiah to be born sinless, His mother must also be utterly holy, pure and free from Eve's disastrous heritage. We know that God has no problem creating immaculate creatures for this was the condition of Adam and Eve before the Fall. That's the why and the how.

2) Mary did need Jesus to save her. Her Immaculacy was achieved by the Father by applying the grace of salvation won for us on the Cross by Jesus. How on earth? Because God is eternal He is quite able to apply the consequences of His saving acts in time even when their sequence

appears to us humans, locked in linear time, to be anachronistic. When the eternal acts in time the results are eternal – both ways.

3) Bible? Notice the Archangelic greeting to Mary at the Annunciation. Gabriel does not call her by her name. He addresses her thus: 'Hail, full of grace.' The actual Greek word is the 'kekaritomene'. (ah, I hear you say), the perfect feminine passive participle of the verb meaning 'to be filled with the divine grace and loved of God'. Job already done. It was in the Book of the Church all the time.

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