Greetings from Ripon, where I'm singing with a choir over the weekend.

Many thanks to Judith for the enclosed service, which has a Marian theme. She has suggested as an opening hymn 'Tell out my soul', here from a Songs of Praise recording in Belfast, with words:
https://youtu.be/s6ji4y9Q-K0

Schubert's Ave Maria, played on cello and piano by the Brooklyn Duo:
https://youtu.be/r_5bYNqpEFU

or Caccini's version, sung by the Moscow Boy's choir with candles in their palms:
https://youtu.be/aihWt9KAq4A

Forgive me if I've selected Victoria's wonderful 8-part setting before, but here it is sung exquisitely by, appropriately enough, the Marian Consort:
https://youtu.be/9H7LkXsREAM

Again, sorry if I've picked this worship song from Martin before, 'Oh How I Need You' All Sons and Daughters. All Sons & Daughters was an American Christian worship music duo, originating from Franklin, Tennessee. The group's leads were Leslie Anne Jordan and David Alan Leonard:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-ZpcJzGBpE

Enjoy!
Chris.

Service sheet for Sunday 15th August
(11th Sunday after Trinity) **The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Almighty God, we thank you that you made yourself known to someone without power, wealth or status; and we praise you for the courage of Mary, this young woman from Galilee, whose Yes to the shame and shock of bearing your Son let loose the unstoppable power of love which changed the world.
(Angela Ashwin)

CONFESSION
The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned: forgive and heal us.
May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Common Worship)

COLLECT
Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS
Isaiah 61:10-end; Psalm 45:10-end; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 1:46-55

REFLECTION We are used to hearing today's gospel reading at Christmas, because we tend to put events of the Christian year into neat compartments; perhaps it's the way we make sure we don't forget anything. However, Jesus, because he was born to be human like us, lived a daily life of which we know relatively little. A few known and loved incidents are recorded, and Mary figures in some of these; the presentation in the Temple, the missing child in Jerusalem, the marriage at Cana, for example. Mary isn't a shadowy figure in the background, or a 'plaster saint', but a living, breathing human being; a mother who is significant in her children's lives. Like most mothers, she goes through every emotion from happiness to despair. The prophetic passage from Isaiah speaks of exultation, as does the gospel reading; the psalm celebrates a royal princess in all her glory. Mary is hailed and venerated in many traditions, and through the year, churches celebrate significant points in her story. What we *don't* know is the everyday story – family arguments, reprimanded children: the normal, sometimes frustrating, experience of most families, but we must guess that these are part of the formation of Jesus's character. His relationship with his mother is exemplified in the fact of her presence at the cross, and his dying provision for her care.



The end of the annual pilgrimage, Notre Dame de l'Isle, Luzech, France. A joyous event in a little church dedicated to Mary, on a bend of the river Lot.

PRAYERS
O God, the Spirit of truth, help us to be truthful with one another. O God, the Spirit of gentleness, help us to be gentle with one another. O God, who knows what is in our hearts more clearly than we do ourselves, help us to hear one another. O God, lead us in the way of truth and love. (Richard Harries)

We pray for the world, for people of all faiths and none, who need to live alongside each other. We pray for those who are suffering from natural or man-made disaster, from intolerance and indifference.

God bless this world, guard its peoples, guide its leaders, and give peace, for Jesus Christ's sake.
(Trevor Huddleston)

We pray for the sick and suffering, the lonely, the anxious and the bereaved, and especially for…….

We give thanks for the good influences in our lives and for all the guidance we have been given. Help us to build on what we have learned, and grant us the opportunity to share it with others.

We say THE LORD'S PRAYER

We share THE GRACE

A FINAL PRAYER

O God, our Father, help us so to live that we may bring help to others, credit to ourselves and to the name we bear, and joy to those that love us, and to you. *(William Barclay)*