

Festas de Santa Maria 4: The Virginity of Mary (18 December)

As God is a perfect Trinity, not more or less – this is a truth widely confirmed – three persons in one deity, so I mean to show that Holy Mary was a virgin in three ways in a single virginity, so that the whole world can hear it.

For she was virgin in spirit and in her body before she was given to Joseph to whom she was betrothed, and she stayed a chaste virgin, so that she was still thus when she became pregnant and bore a son, and afterwards she was virgin as she has always been, and thus they are three on one.

And so, my friends, look closely and you will see a God's great design, how he sought out holy flesh in which he could show his humanity, full of goodness with no sin, in which he could then undergo his Passion, and die and live again on the third day, and destroy the devil and his wickedness.

And though he was Lord he sought to be equal with his mother, the highly favoured one, for while she was his daughter and handmaiden he did not look for high estate nor riches in her, but took human form in her body, and became the son of one he had created, making his daughter his mother, this is a holy truth.

And there was so much humility in her that she made him come down from his dwelling in heaven to enter her blessed flesh, full of goodness, to which he gave such blessings and his grace, and also a special gift that all who were made sick by the devil might have health through her.

And so let us ask her through her mercy to intercede with God who gave her a son when the angel Gabriel greeted her, to protect us from storms that may harm us, and other misfortunes, and from the devil full of deceit, that he may not entrap us with the snares of wrongdoing and with his lies.