

## **The Commissioning of the Dowry Picture**

*The Rector will introduce the Commissioning of the Dowry Picture in these, or similar, words:*

The Dowry Painting by Amanda de Pulford was blessed by Pope Francis on 12th February 2020 in Rome before returning home to Walsingham for The Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry this afternoon. After the Commissioning, the Dowry Painting will begin a journey to every Catholic parish in the country.

The purpose of the tour of the Dowry Painting to each diocese and parish is:

- For the parish 'visitation' to serve as a permanent reminder of the devotion of the people of England to Our Blessed Lady, expressed so beautifully in the Dowry tradition and England's historic title as the 'Dowry of Mary'.
- To spread devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham and the message of Our Lady to 'Share my Joy in the Annunciation'.
- To offer parishes opportunities to experience the richness of Walsingham's Marian Spirituality through activities and devotions at the parish level.
- For each parish visitation to be an opportunity to reflect on the New Evangelization and the example of Our Lady as the first and greatest disciple of her Son.
- For each parish visitation to be an opportunity to seek Our Lady's help and protection as England's Protectress and Guardian and to invite her into our lives, our parishes and our homes for her to guide and watch over us.

### ***General Intercessions***

Celebrant: My brothers and sisters as we prepare to commission the Dowry Painting let us bring our petitions before our Heavenly Father:

Reader: We pray for Elizabeth, our Queen, for Members of Government and for all who are called to serve the community. Lord in your mercy

Response: Hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for all the people in this country, the Dowry of Mary, that we may be faithful to our traditions and our historic devotion to Mary the Mother of God. Lord in your mercy R.

Reader: We pray that through the presence of the Dowry Painting our parishes may we be filled with a missionary spirit to carry the Gospel message of hope and joy to our communities and workplaces. Lord in your mercy. R.

Reader: We pray for all who are suffering from illness in our country and for those who feel lost and abandoned: May they receive healing and comfort. Lord in your mercy. R

Reader: We pray for the young people of our country: May they be inspired by the example of Our Lady to live the Gospel message in truth, love and joy. Lord in your mercy. R

Reader: In this, her Dowry, we ask Our Lady of Walsingham to remember us, as we say Hail Mary ..

Celebrant: Lord God, Mary gave birth to your Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord, in purity and love. May she bring our prayers before you, for we make them in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.

*At the conclusion of the General Intercessions the Rector will recite the Prayer of Commissioning*

Virgin Most Holy, venerated for centuries in this Shrine at Walsingham, humbly standing before you, we ask that through your powerful intercession this Dowry Painting may be a fruitful aid in the New Evangelization of our country.

As once you saw the need of your cousin Elizabeth and journeyed to her, may the tour of this Painting be a new 'Visitation' for our Country, taking with it the gifts and graces needed by our modern world. As it visits parishes, schools, hospitals and prisons may people find comfort and healing through your Maternal care.

As you brought Christ, your Son, to Elizabeth and John the Baptist, may the visit of this Dowry Painting help our dioceses and parishes discover Jesus in a deeper way. May they be renewed and transformed, making them beacons of joy and hope, proclaiming the Gospel by their words and deeds. If daunted by feelings of weakness and limitation may they know that nothing is impossible with God. Following your example of holiness and humility, may they listen to the voice of your Son and do whatever he tells them, saying: 'Let it be done according to Your Word'. In this may they find and share true joy – your joy at the Annunciation.

Our Lady of Walsingham, Queen and Protectress of England, may this Painting make known to a new generation the ancient devotion of England as your Dowry so that you may, once again, reign in our Land.

And so, may this Dowry Painting be commissioned in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*29<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

*Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady*

*[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)*