

## Mary, the bridge between Christians and Muslims

Saturday 26 June would have been the date for the annual gathering of Christian and Muslim women and young children in the historic Lady Chapel situated in Jesmond Dene. The purpose of this gathering is to provide the opportunity to gather in prayer to Our Blessed Lady.

Our Lady can be described as being a 'bridge' between these two monotheistic faiths.

'I am but a messenger from your Lord (come) to announce to you the gift of a pure Son.' She said 'How can I have a Son when no man has touched me? I have not been unchaste.'

(Illustration above from the Quran, Sura 19:19-20)

The Quran contains two Annunciation stories. Mary is the only women mentioned by name in the Quran. Sura 19 is an entire chapter devoted to Mary.

Catholics and Muslims share a deep reverence for Mary, the 'Interreligious Bridge' between our two faiths.

Please view the video of our prayer gathering for 2021, via the link on our Diocesan webpage.