

RE – How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?

Vocabulary

Mary	
Joseph	
Angel Gabriele	The Angel who came from heaven to pass to Mary the message that
virgin	An unmarried women, who has not conducted sexual intercourse.
incarnation	
fiat	
annunciation	the visit of Angel Gabriel to Mary her agreement.
sin	Breaking a rule set by God, a divine rule or law.

Christians celebrate the arrival of Jesus as God's Son.

Incarnation

"Incarnation": God becoming man or literally being "made flesh".

Mary

God chose a Jewish young woman called Mary, who was engaged to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his earthly son and sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. This is called the annunciation. Mary agreed to allow this to happen and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Mary was a virgin, so this was a miracle.

Both the Anglican and Catholic churches believe that Mary was sinless.



Mary and consent

A common misconception is that this event was done to Mary without her consent, or with very little choice. However, the Christian belief in free will precludes this and in response to the angel, Mary says

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

