**25 March**

**Annunciation of Our Lord**

**to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, Mary,

and the power of the Most High will overshadow

you. [Alleluia.]

The Word of God, begotten of the Father

before time began, humbled himself for us

and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and

the Virgin Mary. [Alleluia.]

Mary received the word of the Lord and

conceived the Word of life. [Alleluia.]

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into

our hearts that as we have known the incarnation

of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel,

so by his cross and passion we may be brought to

the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ

our Lord.

Amen

© The Archbishops’ Council of the

 Church of England

**25 March**

**The Annunciation of Our Lord**

The story of the announcement of the coming of God made flesh in the person of his Son, Jesus the Christ, the Anointed One, is heard in today’s proclamation of the good news from the gospel of Luke. The feast marks the conception of Christ in the womb of Mary and has been celebrated in the Church since at least the late fourth century. The perfect humanity and the complete divinity of Jesus is affirmed, following the controversies around those orthodox assertions, which themselves led to the acknowledgement of Mary as *Theotokos*, God-bearer, which in the West became translated at Mother of God. The celebration thus took on strong associations with the person of Mary, and became known in England as Lady Day. In recent years, the Church has re-affirmed the day as a Feast of our Lord, on which his virgin-mother still has a unique place of honour.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*