

even if clumsily. The lesson is surely that when we look for the pattern of any virtue in Mary we must seek, not for its conventional appearance, but for its true nature. Like her, we must first ponder in our hearts.



A MEDIEVAL SEQUENCE

IN ASSUMPTIONE BEATAE VIRGINIS SEQUENTIA¹



ALVE mater Salvatoris
 Vas electum vas honoris
 Vas caelestis gratiae.

Ab aeterno vas provisum
 Vas insigne vas excisum
 manu sapientiae.

Salve Verbi sacra parens
 flos de spina spina carens,
 flos spineti gloria.

Porta clausa fons ortorum
 cella custos unguentorum
 cella pigmentaria.

Salve decus virginum
 mediatrix hominum
 salutis puerpera.

Mirtus temperantiae
 rosa patientiae
 nardus odorifera.

Salve mater pietatis
 et totius trinitatis
 nobile triclinium.

¹This Sequence occurs in the thirteenth-century Dominican Gradual called 'The Blackfriars Codex' (of Blackfriars, Oxford). Along with many others, it has been omitted from later Graduals, but it reveals the special honour accounted the feast of 15th August in the middle ages. It is in fact a shortened version of a Sequence by Adam of St Victor. The Sarum rite has preserved the complete version.

LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

Verbi tamen incarnati
speciale maiestati
preparans hospitium.

O Maria stella maris
dignitate singularis
super omnes ordinis
ordines caelestium.

In supremo sita poli
nos commenda tuae proli
ne terrores sive doli
nos supplantent hostium.

In procinctu constituti
te tuente simus tuti
pervicacis et versuti
tuae cedat vis virtuti
dolis providentiae.

Iesu verbum summi patris
serva servos tuae matris
salva reos salva gratis
et nos tuae claritatis
configura gloriae.

Amen.

[For a translation of this Sequence and notes see below, pp. 279-280]