

Latin in Church Sheet 18

A hymn to the Virgin Mary

VERSES 1 AND 2

Latin	English
1 Ave	Hail
maris stella	star of the sea
Dei mater alma	gentle mother of God
atque semper virgo	and ever virgin
felix coeli porta	happy gate of heaven
2 Sumens illud Ave	Taking up the "Hail"
Gabrielis ore	from Gabriel's mouth
funda nos in pace	establish us in peace
mutans Evae nomen	altering the name of Eve

Ave means Hail!, Hello!

It's what the angel Gabriel said to Mary.

Eva is the name of Eve, in Latin.

Look at the last line of verse 2 of the hymn:

mutans Evae nomen (altering the name of Eve).

What has the virgin Mary done to Eve's name by taking up the angel's greeting?

AVE EVA

The story of Adam and Eve

Once upon a time God created a man called Adam. Adam was all alone and very lonely. God made him a friend called Eve. They lived together happily in the garden of Eden which God had created for them.

One day, Eve was tempted to pick the fruit of the tree that God had said they mustn't taste. The Devil, who looked like a snake to Eve, told Eve that it was really nice fruit.

"Ave Eva!" said the snake.

"Put this in your tummy and you'll know lots of things. God doesn't want you to put this apple in your tummy because God is nasty and mean and is hiding things from you."

So Eve was tempted to turn away from God and do what God had advised her not to do. She picked the apple and took a great bite. Then she went and persuaded her friend Adam to do the same. And both of them found that they were out of favour with God, because they didn't trust him any more, and he couldn't trust them any more.

This was what we call the Fall. Ever after that Adam and Eve and their children had to live a hard life, they didn't have a lovely garden to live in any more, and there was hatred and suffering and misery and evil everywhere.

Until Mary came along, that is.

Think about this story, and make a note of all the things in it that are Mary's story upside down.

Puzzle to find out about for next time: Why is Mary called the Star of the Sea?