

New Series
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Title: Editorial

From the editors of *Maria*, Sarah Jane Boss and Sr Cathy Jones

When the Centre for Marian Studies first got going (as the Marian Study Centre), one of the intentions of the founders was that it should give special attention to Marian theology and devotion in Britain. It is therefore a particular delight to be able to publish Michael Calder's paper on the subject of medieval depictions of the crucifixion on a madonna lily – a motif that is found almost exclusively in England, and certainly only in Britain. In this peer-reviewed article, Calder presents a new and interesting angle on the possible significance of the image, adding a moral dimension to the existing allegorical interpretations of these images.

This issue of *Maria* introduces a new section for discussion papers, or opinion pieces, and we hope that these might generate responses from other readers. The first of these pieces is a short presentation by Mark Miravalle on the subject of the title Co-redemptrix. Professor Miravalle is a leading exponent of this doctrine, and the principal proponent of the case for its being formally defined as a dogma of Catholic faith.

The second discussion piece returns to the theme of Marian devotion in Britain, with Richard Norton's paper on the Marian visions of Julian of Norwich. Mother Julian's work has been much studied in recent decades, but very little has been written on her experience of Mary, which makes Norton's contribution especially welcome.

The third of the discussion pieces is by Andrew Unsworth, and it concerns Elizabeth Kindelmann's writing on devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart, within a historical context. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart has been a major aspect of Marian devotion in the past two hundred years, but Elizabeth Kindelmann's work is not well known, so this article breaks new ground in a significant area for Marian studies.

We then continue this journal's tradition of publishing translations of important Marian writing, with a short extract from the work of Jean-Jacques Olier translated by Sarah Jane Boss, followed by a review by Cathy Jones of Amy Peeler's recent monograph, *Women and the Gender of God*.

Overall, this issue of *Maria* is very varied, taking in the medieval and the modern, the conservative and the reformist. We continue to encourage contributions on Marian topics from all perspectives.