

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”(St John)



OUR LADY OF GUISBOROUGH

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The Marygold



OUR LADY OF GUISBOROUGH

Consider the flowers of the field
How they grow,
They neither toil nor spin
Yet I tell you,
Even Solomon in all his glory
Was not clothed as one of these.



The Marygold

Poem

Long year's ago, ere faith and love
Had left our land to sin and shame,
Her children called my blossoms bright
By their sweet Mother's gentle name.
And when amid the leaflets green
They saw sweet "Mary-buds" unfold
In honour of the Angel's Queen
They plucked the Royal Marygold.
I was the favourite of the poor,
And bloomed by every cottage door,
Speaking of Heaven's Fair Queen to men,
They loved me for the name I bore.
There is no love for Mary now,
And faith died out when love grew cold,
Men seldom raise their hearts to Heaven,
Through looking at the Marygold.
But Mary from her throne on high
Still looks on England and me;
The namesake of the Queen am I,
The Lady of the Land is she.
And surely she must win once more
Her heritage to Christ's True Fold;
Then to her children, as of yore,
Will preach again the Marygold

Prayer

Our Lady,
Queen of the Angels,
And Queen of the English;
With St George we confess,
with St John the Baptist we witness;
"This is your dower, O Holy Virgin.
Wherefore, O Mary,
may you rule over it."
Our Lady,
Flower of the field,
May our faces turn with yours
Towards the Sun of Righteousness.
May our hearts seek with yours
The joy of others.
In England as in Cana,
May we do
Whatever He tells us.

Long Years Ago

This poem is from an 18th century collection of religious verse quoted by Waterton in "Pietas Mariana Britannica". It is eminently suitable for recitation in restored English Shrines of Our Lady both because of its own merits and because the book mentioned above has done more than any other in aiding the restoration of these shrines. It is particularly appropriate in our own Shrine of Our Lady of Guisborough because the Marygold is the flower of the Assumption which was the day of the foundation of the Augustinian Priory and its principal feast day.

Royal Marygold

The flower referred to in the poem is probably the Pot Marigold, *Calendula Officinalis*.
In olden times before people had watches, they used to say you could tell the time by the marigold which was said to keep its face to the sun.

Heaven's Fair Queen

"And then He brought our blessed Lady to mind. In my spirit I saw her as though she were physically present, a simple humble girl, still in her youth, and little more than a child. God showed me something of her spiritual wisdom and honesty, and I understood her profound reverence when she saw her God and Maker; how reverently she marvelled that he should be born of His own creature, and of one so simple. This wisdom and honesty, which recognised the greatness of her creator and the smallness of her created self, moved her to say to Gabriel in her utter humility, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord!" By this I know for certain that in worth and grace she is above all God made, save the blessed humanity of Christ."

The Lady of the Land

There is a lost altarpiece, which was in the English College in Rome in the 17th century. It consisted of five panels showing the Virgin and Child at the centre, with Saints George and John the Baptist and two other saints presenting Richard II and his queen, Anne. Richard is "lifting his eyes and hands" to the Virgin and offering her "a globe or patterne of England". At the foot of the panels there is the inscription, "Dos tua, Virgo pia, haec est, quare rege, Maria."
"This is your dower, O holy Virgin, wherefore O Mary, may you rule over it."