

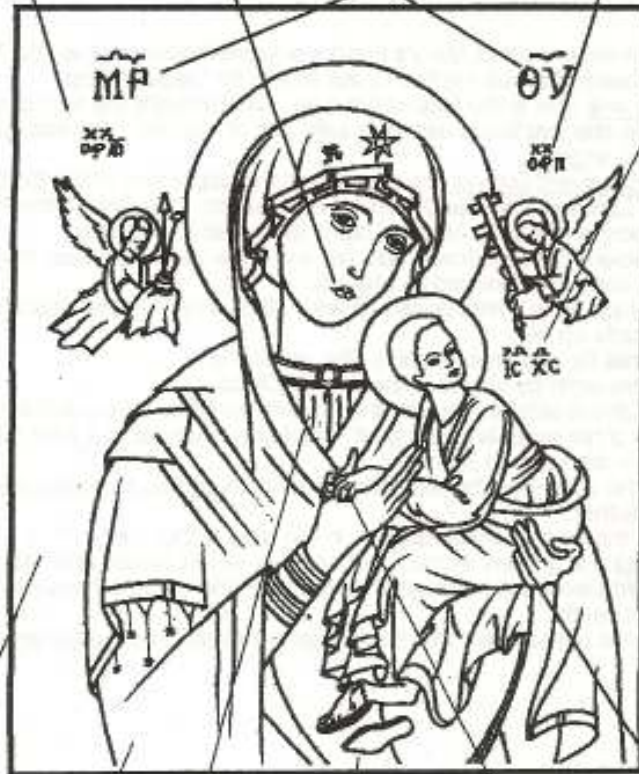
Greek initials for Archangel Michael, who holds the lance and the sponge. 'Michael' means 'who is like God?'

Greek initials for Archangel Gabriel, who holds the cross of Christ. 'Gabriel' means 'God is strong.'

Mary's mouth is small, symbolising her few recorded words and the depth of her contemplation.

Greek initials for Mother of God.

Greek initials for Jesus Christ.



Gold background symbolises heaven.

Red tunic, the colour worn by virgins at the time of Christ.

The Christ-child clings trustingly to his mother.

The mother's supporting hand.

The colour blue, worn by mothers in Palestine.

The falling sandal indicating his alarm at the thought of his Passion and death.