

THE MEANING OF THE ICON OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

The gold crown no longer exists on the original icon. It was placed there in 1867, but removed during the restoration in 1996.

Greek initial for the Archangel Michael, who is shown holding the lance and gall-sop of Christ's passion.

Mary's mouth is painted very small, intended to convey that Mary spent time in silent reflection, pondering. She speaks little, but listens much.

Mary's red tunic is the colour used in iconography for virgins.

The two feet of Jesus symbolize Christ's two natures: human and divine. The sandal firmly on the left foot symbolizes his human nature, while the sandal falling from his right foot symbolizes his divine nature, barely clinging to earth.

The gold background of the entire icon symbolizes Heaven. This gold also shines through Mary's garments and the garments worn by Jesus. This symbolizes how Heaven shines out to us through them.



The star on Mary's veil indicates that she is the Star of the Sea, who brought the light of Christ to a dark world.

Greek initial for the Archangel Gabriel, who is depicted holding the cross of Christ's crucifixion.

Mary's eyes are large, and gazing outward at us, showing that her concern is for all her children.

Greek initials for Jesus Christ.

Mary's left hand cradles Jesus, telling us that she is there to comfort and sustain us.

In Mary's right hand, she holds both hands of her Son. He is frightened by the vision of the instruments held by the angels—the instruments of his crucifixion.