Translation
Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Amen.

Editorial Conventions
The nomenclature of the voice-parts follows the Tudor convention.

The prefatory staves at the start of the piece show the original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note for each voice. Editorial accidentals are placed above the notes concerned.

Underlay repeat signs are expanded using italic text.

Underlay between square brackets is entirely editorial.

Sources
A  Oxford, Christ Church, Mus. 984–8 (1581–1588 with later additions).
  984 (M) no.48 [no ascription]
  985 (Ct1) no.48 at end: Robert Parsons / Musicae capitur omne quod vivit si naturam sequitur
  986 (Ct2) no.48 at end: Parsons
  987 (T) no.48 at end: Parsons
  988 (B) no.48 at end: Robert Parsons / Musica laetificat corda

B  Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Mus. Sch. e. 423 (c.1575–1586; Ct2 only).

Section 2, no.52 at end: Mr Parsons

Notes on the Readings of the Sources
The scribe of A, Robert Dow, often altered the underlay of the music he copied in order to provide what he considered to be better word accentuation. Although he did this with good taste, it nevertheless follows that his copies do not always convey what the composers intended. In Ave Maria, his editorial hand is most obvious in the second half of the piece. Bars 49–57 are a repeat of bars 40–48 with the two countertenor parts exchanged. At bar 51 Dow omits B’s repeat of the underlay in Ct2 and combines the two minim Bs into a semibreve. However, in the Ct1 at bar 42 he failed to make the same adjustment. Here his Ct1 matches B’s Ct2 in bar 51, revealing this to be the correct reading for both voices. At bars 46–48 Dow’s Ct1 has no underlay and he combines the two minim Fs in bar 47 into a semibreve. Yet in the parallel passage in the Ct2 at bars 55–57, while he again omits the underlay, he retains the two minim Fs, revealing that the reading in B is correct. In bar 55 he wrote the syllable -i below the Eb in Ct2 (thus agreeing with B), but changed his mind, cancelled it and omitted the ensuing repetition of fructus ventris tu-.

Other noted readings without underlay in A also suggest that text has been expunged from this source rather than added to B. In the opening bars of the Ct2, Dow omits the repeat of Ave Maria and combines the two semibreves in bar 4 into a single breve. This suggests that, in Ct1, Dow’s tied breves in bars 5–6 may well be the result of combining two, or even three, notes of the same pitch; in this edition they have been separated into two breves.

Source B, the only survivor from a set of five or six partbooks, is a much more reliable source. It has been used as the copy text for the Ct2 and A’s readings for the other voices amended as necessary to reconstruct a conjectural reading of the lost partbooks of B.

In each section below the readings are listed by source. Each reference to a bar or group of bars is separated by an oblique stroke and multiple readings in the same voice are separated by a comma. The order within each entry is: (1) bar number(s); (2) voice; (3) reading of the source, with any subsequent bars number for extended readings in brackets. Pitches are given in capital letters, preceded by a number if necessary, e.g. 1G = first note G in the bar.

Abbreviations
amb ambiguously placed
B Bass
cr crotchet
conj (syllables) conjoined

Accidentals
A  1 Ct2 sl for BC / 2–9 Ct2 -a ave Maria Mari- om, (4) bA for sbA sbA / 3 Ct1 sl for DE; B sl for BC / 4–5 T sl for FG / 16 Ct1 sl for +FA; Ct2 × (for gratia ple-) below C / 23 Ct2 × (for Dominus te-) below E / 25–26 T Dominus te- below EFGA, (26) sl for AB / 26 B Dominus te- amb below EFGAB / 29–30 B Dominus te- amb below BCDCB / 29–31 Ct2 Dominus tectum given as in the edition, (30) sl for BEF / 31 T sl for C/B / 33 Ct1 benedicta begins below rest, so tu in 32 perhaps intended for F / 35 Ct2 sbE is mE mE, (35–36) -dicta one note earlier; (35) T tu below 2B (not in 38) / 38 Ct1 nullie- conj below FGAD; Ct2 × below E / 39–40 M new line in source begins with 1A-, -rubus conj and slightly indented to fall below 2BG2A / 42–45 M fructus ventris tu- amb below F+FFF+FEDCD / 44–47 Ct2 -i fructus ventris tui × om, (47–48) G+G, (49) -i below C / 45 Ct1 dot-sbA for mB Aa, tu- below E (reading of B in 54 adopted) / 47–48 T sl for GABG, -tris tu- one note later (but cf. 56–57) / 47–49 M fructus ventris tui amb below BBBABGA / 51–52 Ct2 -cst et benediti- om, (51) sbB for mB mB / 54 Ct2 dot-sbA for mB Aa, tu- below E / 55 Ct2 × below G but cancelled, (56–57) fructus ventris tu- om (but crF crF retained) / 57 M ventris conj below 1BA2B, (57–58) tu conj below sbG bA; (57) T tui conj below AB / 63 Ct2 × (for A-) below E / 64 Ct2 no lig / 67 Ct2 × (for A-) below 2A / 72 Ct2 × for A- below C / 73 Ct2 no lig /

B  36 Ct2 sl for CDE, (37) hairline from tu to A / 55 Ct2 sl for GE /

Underlay and Ligatures
A  1 Ct2 sl for BC / 2–9 Ct2 -a ave Maria Mari- om, (4) bA for sbA sbA / 3 Ct1 sl for DE; B sl for BC / 4–5 T sl for FG / 16 Ct1 sl for +FA; Ct2 × (for gratia ple-) below C / 23 Ct2 × (for Dominus te-) below E / 25–26 T Dominus te- below EFGA, (26) sl for AB / 26 B Dominus te- amb below EFGAB / 29–30 B Dominus te- amb below BCDCB / 29–31 Ct2 Dominus tectum given as in the edition, (30) sl for BEF / 31 T sl for C/B / 33 Ct1 benedicta begins below rest, so tu in 32 perhaps intended for F / 35 Ct2 sbE is mE mE, (35–36) -dicta one note earlier; (35) T tu below 2B (not in 38) / 38 Ct1 nullie- conj below FGAD; Ct2 × below E / 39–40 M new line in source begins with 1A-, -rubus conj and slightly indented to fall below 2BG2A / 42–45 M fructus ventris tu- amb below F+FFF+FEDCD / 44–47 Ct2 -i fructus ventris tui × om, (47–48) G+G, (49) -i below C / 45 Ct1 dot-sbA for mB Aa, tu- below E (reading of B in 54 adopted) / 47–48 T sl for GABG, -tris tu- one note later (but cf. 56–57) / 47–49 M fructus ventris tui amb below BBBABGA / 51–52 Ct2 -cst et benediti- om, (51) sbB for mB mB / 54 Ct2 dot-sbA for mB Aa, tu- below E / 55 Ct2 × below G but cancelled, (56–57) fructus ventris tu- om (but crF crF retained) / 57 M ventris conj below 1BA2B, (57–58) tu conj below sbG bA; (57) T tui conj below AB / 63 Ct2 × (for A-) below E / 64 Ct2 no lig / 67 Ct2 × (for A-) below 2A / 72 Ct2 × for A- below C / 73 Ct2 no lig /

B  36 Ct2 sl for CDE, (37) hairline from tu to A / 55 Ct2 sl for GE /

Other Readings
A  5–6 Ct1 E+E / 37 Ct1 F is E / 47 Ct1 sbF for mfF mfF / 56–57 Ct1 G4G /

B  1 Ct2 no mensuration symbol /