

Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity of Christmas

† Friday, 25 December 2020

Day – Mass of Christmas



In England & Wales

Cycle of Prayer: Openness to the word of God

Keynote: The Word of God – made flesh – lives among us!

Prophet Isaiah 52: 7-10

There is excitement in the ruined city of Jerusalem, as the watchmen repeat the good news brought by the herald: *'How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation.'* Shouting the news throughout the city – of the return of Sion's King and Lord, heralding the new era of restoration, the time of peace and lasting happiness, *'Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together; For they see the Lord face to face as he returns to Sion.'*

Responsorial Psalm 97 (98) – A song of praise to God – Lord of all the earth

Letter to the Hebrews 1: 1-6

'At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time... he has spoken to us through his Son.' This is important and significant news indeed! The writer of this letter says of Christ, *'He is the radiant light of God's glory, the perfect copy of God's nature... let all the angels of God worship him.'* The Church would have us be open to the word of God and to recognise God with us. In another place and at another time we are invited to listen to Jesus' voice, for: *'This is my beloved son.'*

Gospel according to John 1: 1-18

This familiar opening passage from the gospel according to John provides us with a theological reflection on the deeper meaning of the Christ event. Essentially, the WORD of GOD, taking human flesh, and living among us – the incarnation.

'The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.' In meeting Jesus through knowing him as a person and appreciating his humanity, sharing with him the pains, the sufferings and joys of life, we discover the very divinity of his being: *'In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning...'* and so we learn something about God, and incidentally, about ourselves – about our own destiny: *'He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him... but to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God... the Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory.'*

© Peter Harrison 2020

NOTE – Masses celebrated at Midnight or during the Dawn each have their own readings from the Lectionary.