

## Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]

† Saturday 25 December 2021

Day – Third Mass of Christmas



Cycle of Prayer: Expectant mothers, migrants, refugees and human life

Keynote: The WORD of GOD made flesh lives among us!

### Prophet Isaiah 52: 7-10

*'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation'*. There is excitement in the ruined city of Jerusalem, as the 'watchmen' repeat the good news brought by the herald, shouting throughout the city – the return of Sion's (Jerusalem's) King and Lord. The returning king bringing with him the chance of a new era of restoration, an era of peace and lasting happiness. *'Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy... for they see the Lord face to face as he returns to Sion'*. Today we are invited to capture some of this joy, to experience the good news for ourselves, and then like the watchmen of old, to go out into the street and to share the news of salvation by word, and by our deeds.

**Responsorial Psalm 97 (98)** – a song in praise of the redeemer

### Letter to the Hebrews 1: 1-6

God spoke to our ancestors in times past in many ways, but now speaks to us directly through Jesus Christ: *'In our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son... he is the radiant light of God's glory... sustaining the universe by his powerful command'*. This Jesus Christ is no mere angel or simple human messenger for *'God has never said to any angel; "You are my Son, today I have become your father."* Thus the writer of this letter would have us recognise the dignity of this messenger from God – God's own Son – and in the final words to join the heavenly host of heaven: *"Let all the angels of God worship him!"*

### 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. *'In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning... the Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory'*. In meeting Jesus in his humanity, sharing with him the pains, suffering and joys of life, we discover the divinity of his being, and so learn something about ourselves and about our destiny. *'He was in the world... he came to his own... to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God'*. What wonderful news this is, and a marvellous opportunity to transform our lives. It is worth repeating: *'to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God'*.

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Note

Texts for the Mass at Midnight and the Mass of the Dawn are also available

