

December 25th 2022 Sunday Feast of the Nativity – Year A – John 1:1 – 18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known."

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do
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In this Sunday's gospel we see how Jesus came to be born. We can see Joseph as symbolic of those whose vocation is to welcome the one who bears God within. It was a long, painful journey for Joseph in which he had many fears. Even though he hesitated at first he gave his total commitment. He was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Mary says very little. She is the symbol of those who bear God within them but they must wait until people welcome them to allow God's work to be born. This gospel reminds us that no matter what happens in our lives and in the world that God asked to come among us, Mary accepted and Christ made his home with us.

Have there been times in our lives when we were afraid to come near to Jesus because we felt we were not good enough. Like Joseph we hesitated but Jesus sent someone to us just like the angel who came to Joseph to help us to believe that Jesus welcomes each one of us with open arms and will help us to bring Him to those who are searching for Hope and belief in themselves.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for the times when we hesitated in carrying out your wishes because of fear of what people would think of us or we had no belief in ourselves. You sent your Holy Spirit to help and guide us and we were surprised what we could do and say in your name

Forgive us Lord for the times we did not recognise your will for us because we were afraid and did not feel confident enough to come close to you.

Lord help all women who are pregnant especially those who are not accepted by their families. Help them not to be afraid and to put their trust in you.

