

December 24th 2023 4th Sunday of Advent – Year B – Luke 1:26 – 38

^{1:26}In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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In this week's Gospel we see the long journey which God through the angel walks with Mary. He is accompanying her at every stage until finally she surrenders herself to him and he leaves her. We see Mary experiencing herself deeply loved by God. When Mary leaves herself humbly and trustingly in God's hands and plan, she is perfectly at peace. When are the times in our lives that we experienced the deep love of God for us? Do we acknowledge and be thankful for our guardian angel who has been given to each one of us by God

Prayer:

We thank you Lord for the times that we felt your deep love for us and the protection and guidance of our guardian angels.

Forgive us Lord for the times we get confused and fearful when we hear your word and for the times we became set in our ways.

Help us Lord to listen and hear your word with trust and to have the courage to bring your hope to all we meet especially at this Christmas time and throughout each day of our lives.

