

CHRISTMAS DAY

Today we celebrate the presence of God who came among us to save us; the incarnation—God becoming man. The incarnation is the most far-reaching event which has taken place in human history.

In the first reading, prophet Isaiah says: **“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, “Your God is King!”**

The glad tidings is that salvation is at hand, that peace has come. The terms “Salvation” and “Peace” embrace multiple meanings, including deliverance, rescue, security, wellbeing, health, wholeness and completeness.

We know that the salvation and peace that Isaiah speaks about has been brought to us by no less a person than the Son of God himself who came into this world like one of ourselves born of a human mother.

The opening verse of today’s gospel reads: **“In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God.”**

This echoes the beginning of the Bible itself where in Genesis (1:1) we read: **“In the beginning God created heaven and earth.”**

John’s choice of the phrase “In the beginning” suggests Jesus has come to bring a new creation; a new world founded on a loving relationship between God and mankind. John’s message to us is that the word, the eternal son of God has

united heaven and earth by assuming human flesh and living among us. The word became flesh and dwelt among us.

By becoming one of us we can no longer say that God is far from us because he shares our conditions. The plan of God from the very beginning was to be with man.

The celebration of Christmas, therefore, reminds us that God is with us; God is closer to us and God loves us.

We have every reason to celebrate this wonderful day by remembering God's ultimate gift of Himself to us. There is a great exchange between God and us. God becomes a man to share in our poverty so that we will have a share in his riches.

God shares in our humanity so that will have a share in his divine nature. The point is, Jesus has come to bring us deliverance, rescue, security, wellbeing, health, wholeness and completeness. So on this feast of His Nativity let us allow Him to touch and mold our heart. We should allow the celebration of Christmas to transform us.

In short, let us continue to respond to God's love and mercy and make them known to everyone. Let us continue to welcome Christ as our Redeemer and allow Him to change our community through us.

Let us pray that our whole life will be a continuous Christmas, that is, the spirit of good-will, of love and kindness, should be active in our heart all the year round and all our lives.

Merry Christmas to you all!