

## Christmas 2 Year C

**Readings:** *Ecclesiasticus 24:1-12, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1: (1-9), 10-18, Canticles Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21*

### Theme: The Incarnation

***“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s son full of grace and truth.”***

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

My dear friends, on this second Sunday of Christmas, we meditate on the mystery of the Incarnation. In Christianity, there are only three main miracles, Creation by God out of nothing, the Incarnation, and the Resurrection. Every other miracle of Christianity could be explained away but these three are mysteries of faith.

In Christ, God became one of us, took our form and, through the formalities of growing up, suffered and died. By identifying himself with the world, the world has hope that God will never abandon the world he created. Most of us have read the book of Genesis about the story of creation. God in his goodness created the world out of nothing and made it good. Man, however, lost the state of bliss assigned to him. From that moment, God went about restoring what man had lost. The first Adam disobeys, and lost not only for him but for the whole of humanity. The second Adam was the word of God which the Gospel today narrates its origin.

The first reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus narrates the existence of wisdom which is the Word of God at creation. In creation, God was in the company of Wisdom. Today, we hear the boasting of Wisdom about how he was created at the beginning of creation and how his home now is in earthly Zion where God himself lives. The Christian recognises in her pitching of her tent in Jerusalem an anticipation of God’s own dwelling on earth.

In the second reading, Paul writing to the Ephesians reminds them of what was in the mind of God during creation. It was not only his Son but all those who would believe in his Son - each of us - like wisdom, already had existence in God’s plan from the beginning of time. Much of this letter takes the form of a prayer. The prayer today is that we may all grow in the understanding of the wonders of our calling as the people of God.

In the Gospel, John is at pains to point out that, beneath the sketchy surface details of the birth of Christ, there lays an overwhelming mystery. We wonder in amazement at the self emptying of God, at the Almighty becoming the all-lowly, child perched on his mother’s knee, helplessly gazing out at us from a lowly manger.

If Jesus had come on earth in all the glory of his divinity, people would have trembled before him. They would not only have accepted him, but would have fallen down to worship him. But he did not want this. He knew that this kind of submission would never bring us happiness. So he came in humility and weakness. He wanted to gain our love so that we would follow him of our own free will. He wanted our freely given love rather than the servile rapture of slaves. But this involved a risk. People might not accept him. And this is exactly what happened. St John says sadly, 'He came to his own and his own people did not accept him'. But some did accept him. To these he gave a share in his divine life. He made them children of God.

Dear friends, if God has become man for our sakes, we must ourselves become more fully human and treat others as persons. To live life to the full we have got to be alert to all the possibilities of our humanity and understand the real purpose of our existence. Jesus frees us from the shackles of sin. We are a new creation because God is truly one of us. Our mission is to accept Christ as revealed to us in our quarrelsome human family and become involved in his saving plan for the world.

In his time many refused to welcome him, rooms were slammed and there was no room for his message because hearts were cold.

Christmas tell us that it is in the ordinary things of life that we find God. Christ came to the ordinary world and the implication is that God can be found in the ordinariness of life. We express the spirit of Christmas better when we offer help to those in need and bring hope to those who are lost. We all have to do this in our own way and from our own positions in life.

May the Love of Christ fill your hearts and enable you to proclaim him to the world.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.