

Homily Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Year B 2020

We are all here this evening because we want to be present for the birth of Jesus. Our crib this year is almost not a crib, but, true to the story, Jesus is born in any place willing to welcome him. Along with those watching on line and those who wish to be with us but cannot because of the pandemic, we gather to welcome Jesus into our hearts and our souls. All birth is blessed, sacred and a gift from God. This birth radiates love; the love of God, the love of the parents, and our love. And, as we reflect together soothed by our breathing, we breath out our love and breath in the love of Jesus along with the love of all those around us.

The brightness of Jupiter and Saturn together at this time demonstrates the light that emanates from this new-born baby. Yet, the true light, that Jesus is, does not emanate from a star but from within him and, as it touches us tonight, it radiates around us and within us with a wonder-filled warmth that makes us feel truly at home, offering stability, security and comfort. What some call the numinous – a deep religious connection. This light and your light come from holiness within. In the presence of Jesus, your light comes to life which is why this night is so sacred.

Please don't think that coming here is an opportunity to escape reality. It is quite the opposite. The peace and harmony, the security and love, the empathy and warmth that is present is what Jesus comes to bring us. It is because of what we experience here that we are better able to realise it in our lives at home, at school, at work or wherever. This is what love does. This is the love of Jesus. This is what makes Christmas so special.

Although we wear masks tonight, think of them as shields; shields against breathing in evil and shields to prevent us from breathing out evil. Masks have a holy significance. We sit socially distanced in bubbles thus allowing the love and holiness, warmth of friendship and joy to circulate more easily between us and among us. Like the ground we stand on, the distance between us is a Holy Space.

The Christmas Star

*May the Light which shone from the Christmas Star on that night so long ago
fall on you this Christmas night (day) and set your face aglow.*

May it shine from your eyes. May it rest in your mind.

May it burn in your Spirit bright.

*May the Peace it spoke to a weary world. Bring joy to your heart tonight. (Fill your hearts
with joy and delight.)*

Dior has a perfume called *j'adore* with a subtitle *infinitely woman*. Jesus does not have a perfume but he has presence and grace. We gather to *adore him* – Jesus has a better subtitle ***infinitely divine***.