

## Reflection Monday Advent Week 4 – 2020

### "God Comes"

In 2006 Pope Benedict XVI said: **The Advent liturgy** invites the Church to renew her proclamation to all the peoples which it sums up in two words: '**God comes**'. These words, so concise, contain an ever-new evocative power.

Let us pause for a moment to reflect: this proclamation is not used in the past tense *God has come*, nor in the future *God will come*, but in the present '**God comes**'. This is a continuous present, that is, an ever-continuous action: it happened, it is happening now and it will happen again. Whatever the moment, God comes. The verb '**to come**' is a theological verb; it says something about God's own nature. Proclaiming that '**God comes**' is equivalent to announcing that God in himself **is** the God-who-comes.

Advent calls us to become aware of this truth and to act accordingly. It rings out as a salutary appeal in the days, weeks and months that repeat: Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today: **NOW!**

The one true God is not a God who is up in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is *the-God-who-comes*. He is a Father who never stops thinking of us and, in extreme respect of our freedom, desires to meet us and visit us; he wants to come, to dwell among us, to stay with us. His coming is motivated by the desire to free us from evil and death, from all that prevents our true happiness. God comes to save us.

The opening days of Advent focus on the expectation of the Lord's Final Coming. Now, as Christmas approaches, the dominant note is on the commemoration of the event in Bethlehem, so that we may recognize it at the fullness of time. Between these two manifested comings – the Final Coming and the birth in Bethlehem, it is possible to identify a third coming which St. Bernard calls intermediate and hidden. This 3<sup>rd</sup> coming occurs in the souls of believers and builds a bridge between the first and the last coming.

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum – you just can't beat it!!!

What did Mary Poppins want from Santa? Superkalifragilisticepialisnowshoes!!