

Reflection Monday 3rd Week Advent St Lucy 2021

Saint Lucy was martyred in Syracuse, probably during the persecution of Diocletian (303). Devotion to her spread rapidly across practically the whole Church and her name is included in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

The antiphon to the psalm today sums up what we want to do in Advent: *Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.* It is also the theme of the synodal sharing taking place throughout the world. The hopes and beliefs expect the Holy Spirit to lead us towards the way God wants us to go. It is difficult to think that Mary was well prepared for her encounter with Gabriel. Yet, she was ready enough to trust the Angel, trust God to help her respond fully to the request and bring Christ to us. Our Advent preparation is a time to prepare ourselves to welcome him and to respond with the same trust and courage of Mary and respond positively to whatever Jesus asks of us.

Understandably we look for signposts to help and encourage us on our journey. Lucy is one such signpost offering us courage. C.S Lewis wrote: *'When we are lost in the woods the sight of a signpost is a great matter. He who first sees it cries 'Look!' The whole party gathers round and stares. But when we have found the road and are passing signposts every few miles, we shall not stop and stare.'*

*The birth is coming,
the joy is promised.
May we make ready,
may we make room.
May we join together,
help each other,
and sanctify space
for God's great gift of joy.* (Lindy Thompson)