

Reflection Thursday 5th Week Advent 23 Dec 2021

Indeed, the Lord was with John the Baptist, born to Elizabeth, the one who people eventually recognised as the Elijah prophesied to return and herald the presence of Christ. Reflecting on these happenings in history, it is possible to see that God is present in a very special way at every birth, including our own. And the Lord stays with us throughout our lives. Like John, every baptised person is called to be a herald of the Good News, of Jesus Christ who is both brother and friend. Many who are unbaptised also herald Christ but are unaware that Christ is the one who inspires, motivates and lives in them. All the more reason then to spread this good news. We approach the birth of Jesus with deep and heartfelt thanks, humbled and yet exalted by his presence. Feel the joy, love and uplift of expectation as Jesus' birth grows ever nearer.

*Adapted from **The Christmas Mystery** Adrian Nocent, OSB.*

God became man, not so that he might be with us, but so that we might be with him. The incarnation is the starting point of our being blessed with divine grace. In becoming divine in this way, we become capable of working effectively with Christ to rebuild the world for the glory of the Father. We are not meant to be passive bystanders at the incarnation. The incarnation enables us to play our proper role in God's plan for the world.

The renewal of Christ's birth is not just restricted to intelligent beings. It benefits the whole of creation. The whole of creation, and not man alone, experiences the regenerative power of the incarnation. Christ's presence consecrates the whole world. The presence of the Word within the whole cosmos restores its dignity and gives it the possibility of rebuilding itself.

- Where do all planets go for their higher education? To the universe-ity.
- Where did the astronaut park his rocket when he left the planet? A parking meteor.
- What is an astronaut's favourite day of the week? Moooon-day.