

Reflection Tuesday 4th Week Advent 20 December 2022

Today's O antiphon: *"O key of David and sceptre of Israel, you who open and nobody then can close, who close and nobody then can open: come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."*

This is the middle antiphon of the sequence of the seven great 'O Antiphons'. It looks forward to the royal Messiah, of which David's was only a shadow and prefiguration. As Isaiah proclaimed: *"He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house."* This prophecy was not made about a king but about Eliakim, a master of the palace whose family eventually faded into obscurity. However, this prophecy receives a new lease of life in being illuminated by the light of the rising Sun.

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. In other words, the incarnation is the starting point of our divinization.... It comes about so that, having become in a sense 'divine,' we may be capable of effectively working with Christ to rebuild the world for the glory of the father. We are thus not passive bystanders at the incarnation. The incarnation radically transforms the history of the world and the personal history of each of us. Because of it, each of us must measure up to God's plan and play his proper role in it."

Three old brothers aged 94, 96, and 98 live together.

One day, the oldest brother decides to take a bath, so he fills up the tub. He put one foot in, then stops and yells down the stairs *"Was I getting in or out of the bath"*.

The 96-year-old yells back *"I'm not sure, I'll come up and see"*. He takes one step up the stairs, stops, and yells *"Was I going up or down the stairs?"*

Meanwhile, the 94-year-old was listening to his brothers while drinking coffee. He shakes his head and says *"I sure **hope** I never get that forgetful"* and knocks on wood for good luck. Then he yells to his brothers *"I'll come up and help you two as soon as I see who's knocking at the door!"*