

Homily Christmas Year B 2023

What a wonder-filled night this is, full of happiness, praise, delight and songs of joy!!

Earlier today I had the joy of baptising a baby whose smile filled me with an inner delight. It was as though Christmas had come early, that Christ was already born among us, eager to be us. This is the night that is filled with the glory of a God so full of love that he wanted to come and share his love with us in person through the smile of a baby!

On this night we realise that we are as precious to God as God is precious to us. It is not so much that Jesus brings peace but that Jesus is peace - a fundamental quality of God and therefore of Jesus. We call Jesus, Mighty God! But God's power, God's mightiness lies in his compassion and caring, in his kindness and gentleness, in his goodness and in his love. He has come so that we can experience this first-hand.

On this, his birthday, Jesus comes to renew and strengthen, fill with even greater light and goodness his presence in our lives, so that in our families and in the lives of those whom we encounter, we and they will experience the love of God first hand. This is why family is so important. As we experience the joy of this holy family who brought Jesus to us, he asks us to bring Jesus' love to all those we encounter both good and bad alike through our families.

Sr Macrina Wiederkehr osb puts it in this way:

CHRISTMAS IS FOR HEALING

Loving you, of course

I am not at all interested in how much money

you are spending on Christmas gifts this year

but rather, in how much blood, sweat, and tears you are shedding

to make Christ a vital part of your life;

for you and I will never be able to erase the fact that Jesus came

to touch lives - to break bread,

to heal hurt - to forgive sins,

to wash feet - to calm seas,

to walk on water - to give us the Spirit,

and to care immensely.

Yes, to care enough to be born in our Bethlehem,

to live in our land, and weep over our cities,

and die and rise again.

So now it's Christmas

and I am not sure what part of you is crippled

or where you need to feel God's saving power

but with everything in me

I believe that Christmas is for healing.

And Jesus came to heal.

So if you can trust Jesus enough to

walk out on the waters of getting involved,

of washing feet and anointing people,

of breaking bread and working miracles,

I am almost sure his saving presence

will touch those blind and crippled parts of your life

and Christmas will come to you.

More than anything else

I want to give you Christmas this year.

It's a gift, an offer.

You can take it if you like,
but I can't really give it to you
like a wrapped up package.
It is deeper than that,
it is warmer, brighter, holier.
It is more personal.
Christmas is more challenging
than a wrapped up package.
It is an offer.
It is a mystery.
It is birth.
It is hope.
It is Christmas and ...
God can never be born enough. . .

Happy Groaners!!!!

- How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth? They had a weigh in the manger.
- What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!
- What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum — you can't beat it!