

Reflection Monday 3rd Week Advent 2023

As we approach Christmas this week the readings speak of peace and justice and give the promise that all the wrongs in the world will be put right by the coming Messiah. Yet we also know that Jesus' birth was itself a drama full of dangers and difficulties through which God helped Joseph and Mary. From the beginning of humankind to the birth of Jesus, God chose to do everything with us and through us. If peace is to come into the world, the peace that Jesus brings will only happen through us. As we approach Christmas, whatever we ask of Jesus let us add the words *"Jesus, I can I help with this?"* A retold annunciation story might sound like this today:

Angel *"Mary, God has a challenge for you. God wishes to send his Son into the world and wants your help to do this!"*

Mary: *"That is quite a request! How can I help God in this; I am just a peasant-girl!"*

Angel: *"Mary! Would you become the mother of the baby? To help you with this decision. God believes you can do this or he would not have asked. The name of your son will be Jesus and will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us."*

Mary: *"I do not understand how this can happen even if I accept the challenge."*

Angel: *"God will send his Spirit, the Spirit of God, to make you pregnant!!"*

Mary: *"I foresee many challenges that accompany this request if I say yes. But I want to help God and the people of the world as much as I can. I am deeply honoured that God has asked this of me. I will most certainly accept: Yes! Yes! Yes!"*

Angel: *"God is deeply proud of you and to reassure you he wishes you to know that your cousin Elizabeth is already six months pregnant; she whom everyone thought was well past the age of childbearing."*

Whatever God asks of us, however impossible the challenge may appear to be, God's spirit will be there to help and guide us!!