

Reflection Thursday 3rd Week Advent 2023

Some people we encounter in life fill us with a sense of joy as though a light has walked into the room. Life becomes very positive, even their smile radiates a sense of goodness and reassurance; special people to us. They reflect something of the experience Elizabeth had when she greeted Mary upon her visit after accepting to become the Mother of Jesus. Wouldn't it be good to see evangelisation in terms of bringing Jesus into the lives of others in such a way that it brightens up their lives and fills them with new hope. Christmas is the time when Jesus comes to strengthen his light within us and fill us with a joy similar to Elizabeth's greeting of the pregnant Mary. Then, wherever we go and whomever we meet will experience that special presence in our lives. This helps us understand why our Advent preparation is so important.

St. Ambrose of Milan offer us this reflection:

"Notice the contrast and the choice of words. Elizabeth is the first to hear Mary's voice, but John is the first to be aware of grace. She hears with the ears of the body, but he leaps for joy at the meaning of the mystery. She is aware of Mary's presence, but he is aware of the Lord's presence: a woman aware of a woman's presence, the forerunner aware of the pledge of our salvation. The women speak of the grace they have received while the children are active in secret, unfolding the mystery of love with the help of their mothers, who prophesy by the spirit of their sons."

Ambrose then adds: *"You also are blessed because you have heard and believed. A soul that believes both conceives and brings forth the Word of God and acknowledges his works."*

In a surprising announcement, Head & Shoulders have decided to discontinue their popular anti dandruff shampoo line. The decision left many scratching their heads.

A Russian named Rudolf woke up one morning. He looked out the window and announced, "It's raining."

His wife said, "No dear, it's sleeting."

He replied, "Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear."