

Reflection Friday 5th January 2024

The psalm (20(100)) reflects what must be in our hearts in these days when we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ among us and within us. *“Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy.”* However, just as the happiness and joy of the birth of Jesus was tainted by King Herod who sought Jesus’ destruction, the present struggle in the Holy Land has tainted his birth among us this time too.

Despite Nathaniel’s bias of Jesus coming from Nazareth, Jesus recognises the value of Nathaniel and acknowledges and praises his attribute of being incapable of deceit. A truly honourable man who kept his word. We need more Nathaniels in today’s world!

There is a lovely story about being biased and discrimination.

A young girl is intrigued as she watches a balloon seller who occasionally releases a balloon and lets it float into the sky to attract the attention of possible customers. Every now and then the balloons go up in the sky – green balloons, blue balloons, white balloons, red balloons, even black balloons that always float up into the sky. *“Excuse me sir,”* says the child *“How come when you let go of the balloons – green balloons, blue balloons, white balloons, red balloons even black balloons – they always float up into the sky?”* The balloon seller replies *“Well, you see, it is not the colour of the balloon that matters it’s what’s inside”* It was precisely that *inside* that Jesus spoke about when he said to Nathaniel *“This is someone in whom there is no deception!”*