

Let Jesus Be Born in Your Poverty

Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln, and Malala Yousafzai were born into poverty but each transformed the world in powerful ways.

Jesus was born into poverty. His impact is eternally great. Through His birth, death, and resurrection from the dead, he takes your sins away and restores you to a loving relationship with God.

Some people see Christmas only as a time of presents, eating, and drinking. Christmas without Christ is just M&S. Christmas is so much more!

People can be around us when things are going well. However, when we go through mental health challenges, health problems, financial difficulties, and other times of need, they can disappear. Jesus **only** comes into your poverty. He always comes to give God's peace, hope, and love.

1. Rejection - When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, "there was no room for them in the inn." Jesus was born into rejection. He is born into **your** rejection. How many of you have experienced rejection? Because of your skin colour, accent, ethnicity, your wealth, status, education, or even your looks. Jesus was born into your rejection to tell you: "You are loved. You belong. You are accepted to God."

2. Hunger - Jesus was laid in a manger - a feeding trough. It's been said that there is a God-shaped hole in each of our hearts. We try to fill it with things like money, sex, fame, career and educational success, material possessions. However, they do not ultimately satisfy. Jesus says of himself "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger." In other words, Jesus is the one who satisfies your hunger for God.

In Rev. 3:20, Jesus said, "Behold I stand at the door and knock, anyone who hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and will dine with him, and he with me." Invite Jesus in. He satisfies your hunger.

3. Suffering - Jesus was wrapped in "swaddling clothes." This hints at him being wrapped in swaddling clothes after His death.

Someone here may have received difficult health news, or have experienced the death of a loved one recently. Jesus wants to be born into your grief and suffering.

Jesus mourned Lazarus' death. He knows your suffering. God knows your pain. Jesus died for you personally. When you go through suffering and death, you can know you are not alone.

How can Jesus be born into your poverty in this Mass?

1. At the offertory today, offer your whole life to God including your poverty. When the bread and wine is lifted up in the Eucharistic prayer, God is accepting you, through Jesus.
2. When you receive the Eucharist, Jesus is offering Himself to you in your poverty.
3. At the dismissal, you are blessed and filled with the Holy Spirit to reach out to those in need this Christmas with Jesus' love and compassion.

Brothers and sisters, let Jesus be born into your poverty: your rejection, hunger, and suffering. He will bring you peace and, through you, bring His peace to others.

Prayer

Jesus, be born in my life.

Be born in my times of rejection, in my hunger for love and life, in my times of suffering and grief.

Help me to make you present to all.

In Jesus' name, amen!