

Christmas - December 25, 2013

Readings:

R1: **Is 62:1-5**

R2: **Acts 13:16-17, 22-25**

Gospel: **Mt 1:18-25**

The Christmas is here
The wait is over and the night has ended
The Son of God has finally descended
And made his home in a manger
For him the Emmanuel no one is stranger

Today we are gathered to celebrate the birth of our saviour as foretold by the prophets and announced by the angel.

The advent season of waiting and preparation is over and here we are to greet the babe of Nazareth a very happy birth day.

In the last four Sundays we heard of the Christmas story unfolding through the angel's announcement, mother Mary's 'yes' to the impossible, St. Joseph's initial reluctance and later acceptance, the monumental meeting of mothers of Jesus and John the Baptist, culminating in the birth of the John the Baptist and tonight our saviour.

Genesis says God created man in his image and likeness (1:27)

And Psalms Ch: 8 puts this creation of man in a better perceptive when it says,

“ Yet you have made them a little lower than God
And crowned them with glory and honour
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands
You have put all things under their feet.....”

If man was created in the image of God and crowned with glory and honour, then what was the need for God to become man? What was the need for incarnation? The creation was sufficient.

The initial sin of Adam and the consequent gradual departure of man from his creator has led to the disfiguration of the image of God in him and the utter loss of glory and honour.

It was as if man was telling God “I don't need you”.

Little did man know that he would be totally annihilated apart from his creator!

God sent his prophets, but man turned deaf ears to them
He gave them law & scripture, but man had no time for them

Man would go even to the extent of killing anyone who came as voice of God to challenge his consciousness.

It was to this mankind that God sent his son

It was to these detractors, the creator came as the redeemer

Thus while sin is man clamouring to God “I don't need you”

Christmas is God calling man “I can't let you go”

The babe of Bethlehem is the unconditional & everlasting love of god made manifest

Christmas is God's final call to restore man's image, honour and glory

And Jesus born in the manger is our only hope of redemption and restoration.

Let us then welcome Jesus as our personal saviour and redeemer,

Let us welcome our Emmanuel the promised of ages.....

Amen

Rev. Fr. Thomas Kumar