

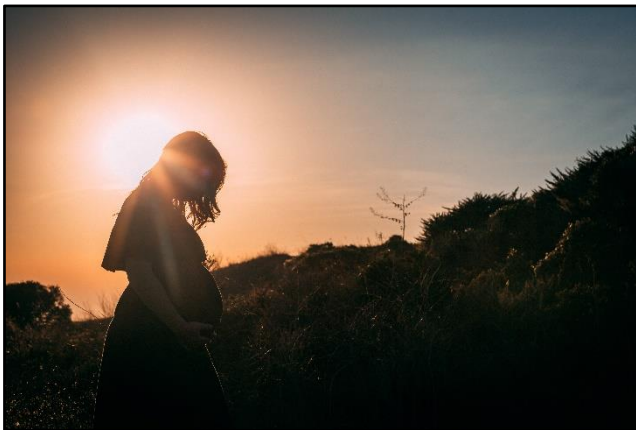
Advent Thought for the Day 2021

Advent 27-28 by Rev Alan. Stewart

ADVENT Day 27

Christmas Eve

St Mary



For many Christians, Mary is undoubtedly the greatest of all the saints, because of her virtue and role as 'Theotokos' or God-bearer. Many dogmas and traditions surround Mary, ranging from her own immaculate conception (she was born to a virgin), to her perpetual virginity, to her final assumption into heaven (she didn't die).

Personally, I don't need the miraculous to confirm just how important Mary is. For me, Mary was a very human teenage peasant girl who said 'yes' to her God. And in this, Mary risked everything; reputation, family, fiancé. As a victim of gossip, Mary knew the stigma of shame from bitter experience. Probably, she would have been shunned within her community. Definitely, she would have risked all the usual dangers of childbirth at that time.

Mary is our example, not because she was supernaturally born or perfectly virtuous, but because she chose to carry and give birth to God despite the cost to herself. This too is our calling. We are all called to be God-bearers; called to say 'yes' to our God; to carry his presence and blessing within us to the world.

On this Christmas Eve, may the same light that shone through Mary shine through each of us as we carry and give birth to hope and love wherever we are.

ADVENT Day 28

Christmas Day



'The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it' John 1 v5

Throughout Advent, we've been thinking about saints; ordinary people who let the light shine through them. On this Christmas Day we celebrate and welcome the Light Himself, who became one of us; with us and for us; within us.

Whatever our celebrations today, however different they may or may not be, may we pause to rejoice in the One who rejoices with us and in us.

Wherever, and however we are today, whether with or without the ones we love, may we know the presence of the Light Himself who no darkness can overcome, who has loved us from the beginning.

Today, may joy and wonder surprise us, may each moment be received as a gift, and may we have eyes to see the Christ that is and always has been among us.

May his Light shine through us today and every day. Happy Christmas!