

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT MIDNIGHT

Isaiah 9:1-7 "The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light." (Is 9:1)

Titus 2:11-14 "God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race." (Titus 2:11)

Luke 2:1-14 "Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Fr. Callistus Khathali

As we are all set to celebrate this feast which tends to lose its meaning when celebrated without Christ, the readings of the mass at midnight invite us to reflect on the true meaning thereof.

Starting with the first reading from Isaiah, the significant concept of darkness is right at the beginning on his 9th chapter. Darkness means a reality outside God who is Light. In our profession of faith (Nicene Creed) we express our faith in the Son who is "Light from Light." This walking in darkness refers to us especially our constant tendency to get ourselves into sin. This we do both individually and collectively.

God's response to our situation of walking in darkness is the real miracle of Christmas. Even though we constantly choose what is bad for us, God chooses what is good for us, and he gives that to us. Seeing the great light while walking in darkness can only mean that the one who is Light, and source of Light has invaded our dreaded darkness with the most attractive Light. To the world under the slavery of sin and suffering, God has come to dispel the darkness of sin with his wonderful Light.

As we exchange Christmas gifts, let us reflect on the original Christmas gift. St Paul in his letter to Titus refers to it as God's grace given to us which makes salvation possible to all of us. The angel of the Lord in our gospel came to bring the good news of the saviour born for all of us.

Jesus continues to be born to all of us today. We continue to be surrounded by different forms of darkness, some that we are not even responsible for. The darkness of Covid-19 continues to bring fear of the uncertain future. The angel of the Lord is calling us not to be afraid. The saviour born for us on this night has not abandoned us. He remains with us for ever. Let us receive our original Christmas gift by allowing Christ to be born into our very sinful selves, and into our homes and communities.

I take this opportunity of wishing you all a grace filled Christmas which will truly touch and transform you. Thanks for the constant support you give me. May you be greatly rewarded with the greatest Christmas gift!