

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (Jn 1:1-5)

Who is this child? A newborn baby lies wrapped in rags, sharing a feed bin with the animals in a rude hut cut into the side of a hill on a cold winter's night, and all creation reacts. The depths of hell tremble, the heavens rejoice and the earth looks on in awe. The very nature of nature has changed and nothing will ever be quite the same again. The Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary is a flesh and blood human, who is just the same as us in every way but sin walks the earth.

Fully God, present from before the beginning of time, creator of all that is and all that ever will be. Fully human, complete with dirty diapers, waking his mother for feeding, and needing to be burped. 2 complete natures in one being, incomprehensible to our human minds. But then it is the very height of folly to attempt to limit God to our ability to understand his ways.

The Father, fully present in the Child along with the Holy Spirit, fully present throughout creation. He has a different perspective, one that we cannot comprehend, but we can share a small part of on this day. He knows the entire story, we know part of it, but still much more than Mary and Joseph knew on that night. Can we imagine the mixture of emotions?

Overwhelming love, proud of what His Son will be, both as being a good person and in his public life. Sorrow for the pain of his Passion, grateful for obedience and his Sacrifice. And yet in all of this he just like every other proud Father and he has to tell somebody to celebrate, so he sends his Angels to the shepherds in the fields so he can share his joy with them and through the ages with each and every one of us.

The Word, this newborn child is the Word. The Christ Child teaches us, he inspires us, he comforts us by his Word. We process the Word into the Mass in the Book of the Gospels, not as a prop, but as the focal point for the first part of the mass, the Liturgy of the Word. We stand in respect to listen to the Word as he feeds us as the Word is read to us. Then we carry the Word out of the Mass in our hearts into the world that is in desperate need of the good news, the Word of God.

In the Eucharist we experience the Christ coming to be one with us. The child who loves us so much that he makes the effort to become one with us in the most intimate union, by becoming part of our bodies and our souls as food that give us eternal life and that we carry with us to strengthen us out there in the world.

The gift of life that is a gift from God presented to us in the Christ Child and in every child ever conceived. His life, our lives, all life points to the supernatural and divine life that Jesus grants in abundance to the children of God. The divine life full of an incompressible love; a love that we cannot fathom; a love that we cannot equal; a love that we should try to make known to those we love in our life, our spouses, our children, the rest of our families and friends and all of the people we meet.

Go into the deepest, darkest cavern, a place that has never seen the light of day and light a single small candle. No matter how dark the darkness is, it does not have the power to put out the light from that candle. This Christ Child is the light of the world, the true light that drives away the darkness of sin. Our Savior who even now prays for us to the Father, for us to follow the light, his light so we can spend eternity with him in heaven.

As we joyfully take our Christmas gifts, the Word and the Eucharist with us from this and every Mass, let us resolve to follow the light, to be a little more joyful, to be a little kinder, to be a little more loving as our gift to the child who has sacrificed so much for us.