

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent
With Deacon Chris

19th December

Light a candle and make sure it is safe and don't leave unattended.

And you shall bear a son

Abraham and Sarah were told that they would have a child. Manoah and his wife received the same message. Hannan, despite Eli first thinking she was drunk was blest with a son. Zechariah and Elizabeth are the parents, too. Then we have Mary.

Their children: Isaac, Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist and finally Jesus.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

God our Father, to you all things are possible. Our lack of faith can prevent us from seeing and accepting what you offer us. Help us to accept what we think is unlikely so that we can experience your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Gospel

Luke chapter 1 verses 5 to 25

Messages given by angels.

It is worth noting that in our first reading the birth of Samson is foretold. In order to conceive, his mother must not drink anything that is strong or any wine. The son she bears must not allow a razor to touch his head.

Our gospel is the familiar story of Gabriel and Zechariah. Zechariah is going about his solemn duties and is greeted by an angel who is Gabriel. Zechariah and Elizabeth have wanted children but they have not had any. Elizabeth feels the humiliation that is heaped on her because of this. How cruel people could be. Instead of accepting the news with joy Zechariah pours out his doubt on what he has heard. His punishment seems harsh and it goes on for quite a while. When Elizabeth becomes pregnant she accepts what God has done for her.

Have there been times when we have found it hard to accept some good news. Are we cynical or just doubters? Do we accept what we hear with an open heart and mind?

Your Own Time.

Rosary. Contemplate on the **O Antiphon** that follows

O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay. (Magnificat antiphon 19th December Evening Prayer of the Church)

Concluding Prayer

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O God, you sent John the Baptist to open up the way for your coming. He started his mission in the womb of Elizabeth, his mother, help us to accept your message for what it is, your message. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.