

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent
With Deacon Chris

23rd December

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

Messenger

Relaying messages can be one of the hardest things to do. We all know the story about *send reinforcements we are going to advance* becoming *send three and fourpence we are going to a dance*. Messages get distorted for all sorts of reasons. Sometimes we hear the first few words, react to them and miss the last words which are often the most important. Therefore, the main part of the message is not heard.

The prophets were messengers of God. They relayed what they had been told by God. The angels are messengers, too. Gabriel went to Zechariah who wouldn't believe him. Gabriel went to our Lady and she believed and accepted.

In today's world of instant messaging it can be hard to discern what is truth. Therefore, we have to dig deep into it to make sure that what we have read/heard is truthful. At Jesus' trial in St. John's gospel Pilate asks, '*What is Truth?*'

George Washington said that he could not tell a lie.

Truth is a two way thing.

We can rely on the Scriptures for being true.

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

God our Father, help us to listen to the messages that you send and help us to accept them. Let us not fall into the trap of 'shooting the messenger' but open our hearts and minds to accept what you say irrespective of how your truth is delivered. 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 of 22nd December

Luke chapter 1 verses 57 to 66

What Elizabeth said is correct.

There is great joy in the household of Elizabeth and Zechariah. Elizabeth has given birth to a boy and the time has come for his circumcision. The people were going to name him Zechariah but Elizabeth spoke up to say that his name had to be John. Oh no, how can that be when there are no Johns in the family.

The messenger, Elizabeth, is not being believed. They turn to the child's father thinking that he put Elizabeth in her place. But he doesn't. He backs her to the hilt by writing that his name is John. They are stunned and wonder what the child will turn out to be. His voice is restored.

Do you like your name?

Your Own Time.

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

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O Immanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord, our God. (Magnificat antiphon 23rd December Evening Prayer of the Church)

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, you sent messengers into the world to bring the Good News. Help us to follow in their footsteps and to be resolute as they were. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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