

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent  
With Deacon Chris

20<sup>th</sup> December

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

Expectant Mothers

Sara (Sarah), Hannah, Samson's mother, and Elizabeth are women who have longed for a child and their prayers were answered. Hannah and Elizabeth had some input into two of our familiar prayers: the Magnificat and the Hail Mary.

The Church asks that we pray for expectant mothers. We pray that their pregnancy will be trouble free. If it is not, we pray that both mother and child will come through ok. We pray for all mothers and fathers whose child has not lived for whatever reason. We pray for the couples who long for children that their patience will be rewarded. We pray for expectant mothers who cannot face the future that they will find the grace and strength to make the right decision. We pray that the expectant mum will be a good mum to her child.

St. Gerard Magella, pray for us.

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

God our Father, you are the author of life, grant this great gift to all who ask you for it but give them the grace, also, dear Lord to accept your will. 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 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Luke chapter 1 verses 26 to 38

Another angelic message.

St. Luke is repeating the formula that he used when he told us how the message of Gabriel was received by Zechariah. The only difference is that Gabriel is talking to a woman. The greetings are similar and so too are the reaction. Mary, listens and asks a similar question to Zechariah's question.

Mary is not giving in; she is not being brow-beaten. She is working through what she believes and how it fits with what Gabriel has told her. She gets the added information about her cousin.

Her response is one of humble acceptance. Her 'Yes' brings light to the world. It brings our hope of salvation.

**Your Own Time.**

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

O key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again: what you close no one can open. O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.. (Magnificat antiphon 20<sup>th</sup> December Evening Prayer of the Church)

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**Concluding Prayer**

O God, help all mothers who are pregnant, give them the grace to understand how to live their life so that they have a healthy pregnancy. Let them feel your love and joy through their journey to motherhood. Help also those who are having a bad time let them see light when all around may seem dark. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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