



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

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Online Resource

Whispers of God: Humbly seek and find 4th Sunday Advent - Year B



*Revelation of mystery kept secret for ages
(Rm 16)*

Points for Prayer – Sunday scripture

*Eternal Word took flesh
Prepare us for his coming
Build me a house
I will be a Father to him
Sing the goodness of God
My God the rock
Strength to live Revelation of mystery
Broadcast to the pagans
The Lord is with you
Nothing is impossible with God
I am the handmaid of the Lord
She will call him Emmanuel*

Joy in human family

Every family has a member who does not seem to 'fit' yet they belong. Even the physical place on Earth where we live invites us to belong – it is 'country'. In the give-and-take of the extended family and friends, members learn patience and love. It takes effort to live positively with messy situations. Stories of testing times surround the birth of Jesus – having to travel to fill out a census; escaping a jealous ruler; being lauded by foreign visitors.

all sound spirituality entails both welcoming divine love and adoration, confident in the Lord because of his infinite power. In the Bible, the God who liberates and saves is the same God who created the universe. Pope Francis Laudato Si #73

Incarnation

Carols by Candlelight have become an Australian secular ritual. Everyone feels comfortable as they hold a candle and sing. Even the great outdoors is like a comforting blanket. The wonderful mystery revealed in the person of Jesus is that we find the world of God in our lives and in this world. Life on Earth is sacred. God is with us – *Emmanuel*.

Prayers of the faithful

1. Affirm – Jesus built up the confidence of the disciples. That we tell our family and friends that we value them as gifts in our lives... we pray
2. Parish – Local communities feature in the Acts of the Apostles. That we help grow the vitality of our parish as a rock of refuge in God ... we pray
3. Outsiders – Jesus reached out to the social outsider. That we reach out to those separated from family, the lonely and shut-ins ... we pray
4. Solstice – God gives us a place to belong. That the Christmas solstice remind us to care for a local part of Earth where we live ... we pray
5. Hope – Nothing is impossible with God. That we spread hope by showing an interest in others and care for Earth as our common home ... we pray

Mary McAleese

She was born in Belfast in 1951. Her family were tested as a Catholic family in a militant Protestant neighbourhood. She became a lawyer and journalist, and campaigned for more recognition of women in the Catholic Church, even ordination. She was elected President of Ireland 1997-2011. A figure of integrity she urged the Church to face up to sexual abuse and internal cover-ups. She personally visited the down and outs http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_McAleese

Action

- Personally make a Christmas card or prepare a bunch of flowers.
- As a family, care for your garden or join a local community garden

Mission's wide embrace

Mary is able to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small. She constantly contemplates the mystery of God in our world, in human history and in our daily lives. ... We implore her maternal intercession that the Church may become a home for many peoples, a mother for all peoples, and that the way may be opened to the birth of a new world. Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel #288

St Columbans Mission Society
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