

24 December 2017 (4th Sunday in Advent, Year B)

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

### **The time of waiting is over!**

This year, as we come together to celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent, we realise that we are on the doorstep of our Christmas festivities; the time of waiting is over!

In the past three Sundays we reminded ourselves of the need to wait for God to appear in our life; we spoke about our need to change our hearts and repent; last week we reflected that we are the witnesses to the light. Today we see Mary who, together with the people of Israel, had been waiting for the Messiah, the one anointed and chosen by God.

In the first reading from the second book of Samuel, we see God in conversation with the great King David. After settling down in his new capital city, Jerusalem, David plans to build a temple to house the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of God's presence with his people. Instead, through the prophet Nathan, God promises David that he (God) will be the one to build David a house, not a house of bricks and mortar, but a royal house. The Messiah himself will be born from the house of David.

As we read through the Old and the New Testaments, we see that God always comes through with his promises. The difficulty for us human beings is that God's time is very different from our sense of time. We do not know at what time God will decide when he will act, but act he will! Often this can be quite frustrating for us as we want things done yesterday! With God we need to learn to wait; our whole life is a time of waiting for God's time to come true in our life. Today's gospel reading is another case where God shows us that his promises will come true. Through her relationship with Joseph, the son that will be born of Mary will be the promised anointed one in the line of David, and since he never dies, David's line will now last forever.

As we prepare for Christmas tomorrow, we are encouraged to wait for God's action to happen in our life and in our heart. Very often things happen around us that make us wonder whether God has indeed forgotten us. I am sure that if we were to be given the chance to write our own story we would do a much better job at it, leaving out all the pain and the mess that we experience in our life and around us, and getting to the nice and joyful parts at a faster pace.

Our job is to wait and trust in God. Even in the great mess that we experience in our life we need to learn to see and believe that God is at work and that in God's time, he will carry out his promise, just as he did in the scriptures. Our life is an advent of waiting on God. Let us wait patiently and prayerfully for God's will to be done in our life.

Fr Mario