

Advent, Thursday of 1<sup>st</sup> week

Reading: Lk.1,8-20

V.15a *"...he will be great in the eyes of the Lord."*

This is spoken of John the Baptist whose birth was announced to his parents Zechariah and Elizabeth in answer to their prayer for a child. The greatness said of him here derives from the fact that he will "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" and will do so "in the spirit and power of Elijah", "filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born".

Of all the prophets who announced the coming of the Saviour, John is the greatest, because while they saw it from afar John will point to him and say 'He has come; he is here!' And the one he will point to is thus marked out to be the Saviour, who will make even the least of those who receive him to be greater than John in the eyes of the Lord (Mt.11,11).

When Zechariah doubted that this was possible due to his age and that of his wife, the angel Gabriel took away his power of speech *"because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."*

Let us not contradict the promises and the word of God as it points to Jesus and what he is for us, but follow and trust it. And let all the world be silent before the greatness of our Lord and his salvation.