

Thursday 10th December 2020

Advent, Thursday of 2nd week

Reading: Lk.1,39-45

V.42 "In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!'"

It wasn't the easiest thing for Mary to consent to the word she received, to yield herself to it, and to say to God's messenger, 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' But she did, and it has rightly been said that the fact she did so was nothing short of a miracle. Faith in God of such self-yielding kind is not the fruit of human power, but of God's Spirit.

Elizabeth knew, also by the Spirit, what that self-yielding faith meant. And her greeting very much was a declaration of that – it meant Mary was blessed. Through her would not only come new life, but life itself, the One who shall say, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', through whom all shall find true life and be blessed.

Among women Mary indeed was singularly blessed, because of her faith and the Word of God that grew in her.

The word 'blessing' has the ring of 'enriching', of increase, prosperity, happiness and so on. In knowing that Mary was 'blessed', our thoughts are turned to the way in which God blesses us through Jesus Christ by faith in him. To what kind of 'increase'?

Is.9,6.7: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."