

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Advent, Friday of 2<sup>nd</sup> week

Reading: Lk.1,39-45

V.43 *"But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"*

"Why didn't you tell me!?" "You never asked!" A scenario familiar to most of us. And one which, among others, gives context to Jesus' word, 'Ask and you shall be given', and to what James says in his epistle, 'You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.' (4,2.3)

Elizabeth (the more senior of the two ladies!) asks why she should be so favoured as to receive a visit by Mary. With this question she betrays some knowledge of what the Lord's promise which he fulfilled to Mary is about – his favour. She asks so she may know.

The Lord's promise, fulfilled to Mary and coming into the world (for you and me also!) through her, is the favour of God. We shall not fail to know and receive Christ when, knowing we need God's favour (grace!), we ask for it and ask so we may know.

Christmas is about God's grace given to a world that needs it most badly. Do we know? If we know, we will ask. If we ask, we will hear what the Word of God tells us – and know the grace of God.