

Tuesday 15th December 2020

Advent, Tuesday of 3rd week

Reading: Lk.1,45-56

V.56 *“Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about 3 months and then returned home.”*

It would be easy to read past this verse in the context of the whole story and pay it scant attention. Why is it here anyway, and how could meditating upon it be profitable? It is no more than a fairly minor historical detail, surely? But on the contrary – to read past it might be symptomatic of overlooking in our own circumstances what this verse, what Mary, would show us.

And it's that she stayed with Elizabeth, her cousin, until shortly before her delivery. That is, she would have cared for her, made sure in many ways, small and big, that Elizabeth was resting enough, done the shopping and the cleaning, the cooking, and the washing etc., and all while being to her a warm companion. She could have expected this for herself, could have said: “I'd love to stay, but I can't; there are more important things for me to care about because the Saviour is coming through me!” But she is free to care for Elizabeth, as needs arise, because she is free from having to care for herself instead.

The Saviour she carries will do the same, he will lay down his life for us to save us from our sins. And he will be in the midst of his own as one who serves.

God cares for us, so that we should be free to care for one another and do it in all the ways, small and big, that needs arise around us.