

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Advent, Friday of 3rd week

Reading: Lk.1,65-67

V.66a *"Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, 'What then is this child going to be?'"*

Already, just a few days after his birth, he causes people to wonder what his mission is, what he will do when he grows up and how he will benefit their community (which, surely, he will?). The circumstances of his birth, the events at the name-giving ceremony mark him out as special and signal that something is being prepared. But what?

His father and mother know that at the centre of John's story, of what he is and what he is sent to do, is not John, but the one he will prepare people for and to whom he will point. And they know that the one he will point to, comes in order to be the centre of everyone's story and make it a story of redemption, of being found, of coming home.

The people do not yet know, but they wonder. Will they wonder still and listen when John shall point to Jesus, born just a little after him in a stable in Bethlehem, and will say: "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

*Lord God, it is good to seek you; give us grace to wonder about your Chosen One and learn about the riches you give us through him. Amen*