

Thursday 19th August 2021

1Chr.13,8: *“David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets.”*

Phil.4,4-5: *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”*

We mark certain events by coming together in celebration. And we do so because we want to acknowledge that a thing is good, and express joy and gratitude for what has come to be. Every celebration points to the human hope that life's story goes somewhere good, through all the pain and suffering, and will conclude well. Every celebration anticipates the state of 'life to the full'.

The celebration life hopes for and is made for, is fulfilled in the coming of God to dwell with His people. This celebration is now “in the Lord”, for in Christ alone man and God are reconciled, and is known by faith. So those who believe are to rejoice now, being of a celebratory spirit in their approach to others, even as they know of the future celebration which will see the coming together of all in the fulness of time.

Jesus: *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* – Jn.10,10