

## **Advent 4 - The Road to Bethlehem**

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. Luke 2:1-5*

The road to Bethlehem, to the place where God came to us in human form as the baby Jesus, is one that we join together on each year, It's been a difficult road to Bethlehem this year. As I reflect on our communities' journey to Bethlehem I can really identify with Mary and Joseph, forced by a census to travel to Joseph's family home, as the pandemic has forced many changes in our own lives.

Like Mary and Joseph who relied on each other for support through the ups and downs of life we too have learned to rely more on family and friends, kindled a stronger sense of community, and looked after our neighbours who may have been struggling. We have travelled to Bethlehem together and like Mary and Joseph have been learning to lean` on God in faith that despite the difficulties and uncertainty he works through them and meets us.

So as we approach Bethlehem this year whatever our route or circumstances, we come to it through the wonderous fabric of ordinary existence where God meets us. And the good news for each and every one of us, is that Christ comes to us all, the meek and lowly, the plain and ordinary, whoever we are or whatever we do, whatever our circumstances he meets us in them and accepts us if we are humble enough to accept him into our heart.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas

Fr Kris

## **Give**

Is there someone who might be feeling that Christmas is a bit broken, whom you can get in touch with, listen to and do one small kindness to show that God's light is coming into the world? What's stopping you doing that today?

## **Pray**

God of life, you are the beginning and the end.

You hold our past and light our future.

May we find our rest in you today and trust you for all that will be. Amen

## **Act**

Take time to think of someone who has been important to you this year. Tell them in a card, or in person, or over the telephone why they mean so much to you.

Give a Christmas card to a neighbour you wouldn't normally give one too.

Write a prayer saying what you hope for yourself and for others.