

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 22nd DECEMBER 2024

Theme: “Behold, I come to do your will.”



Hymn – YouTube *Come Emmanuel, come to save your people.*

Reflection: Luke 1:39-45: The Fourth Sunday of Advent brings to us the person of Mary as the pre-eminent figure, who waited for and prepared herself for the birth of Jesus. The Gospel narrates to us the story of the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary is a messenger of joy and service. She wanted to share the Good News to the house of Zachariah and to the World the joy she held in her womb, ‘Jesus the Lord the Saviour of the World’. Mary went in great haste showing that, it is not only the speed with which she went but her careful attention with which she undertakes the journey, her enthusiasm to listen, to obey, to do God’s will and to be the servant of all. The encounter is filled with joy as John the Baptist filled with the Holy Spirit feels the nearness of the Lord and leaps in Elizabeth’s womb at the sound of Mary’s greetings. Elizabeth blesses Mary’s faith and acclaimed her as the ‘Mother of my Lord’.

What Mary is at the heart of the Church, Euphrasie Barbier wished her to be at the heart of the congregation: a presence of enduring faith, profound love, total openness and generous service. It is for this reason that Euphrasie Barbier chose Mary of the Visitation and Pentecost as a model for living our religious missionary life”. (C.7)

- How is Mary’s life transforming my life?
- Mary gifted herself completely to the service of Elizabeth surrounding her with affection and care. How do I support and accompany women in my communities and my ministries?

Quiet time for reflection and sharing



A prayer to Mary

Mary,
Make arise in us the song which burst forth from your heart
As you travelled those roads and through the hills of the high country.
May you grow in us this song of the poor and the little ones,
Of those who serve and are not served.
Make us arise from our earth,
You, the messenger of the Present Times,
That song of the Love for the world when God visited it.
Enable us to set out, in great haste, each day
Towards those who await us.
Help us to carry Jesus Christ in a singing heart

Adapted from a Prayer of P. QUIAVARC'H S.M.M

Magnificat- YouTube **Mary's Song of Praise** (from Joyful Christmas Album)

Concluding prayer: God, thou art our eternal discovery and our eternal fulfilment; the more we know you in faith, the more you reveal yourself to us. You came to us as a poor and helpless babe in the manger of Bethlehem. But we know in faith that you are greater than the greatest, we surrender ourselves and the whole world to you as we long to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Prepared by Banrilin Nongphlang
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