

## Christmas – 25.12.15

Quite often in conversation, it happens that speaking of whatever – suddenly the word we need escapes us. It is a universal experience. We can hardly believe that we have forgotten the word – the obvious word, in the context of what we are trying to say.

And again, what we have all discovered, is that we have to divert our minds from all that we are discussing – and given a little while, the word will appear again – it will come to mind again – almost certainly this will happen.

What has all this to do with Christmas?

Much in every way – as we see in John’s marvellous prologue to his Gospel.

John has great emphasis on the *logos* – on the Word. And from his opening words we see that John is not dealing with something that has happened in a corner somewhere.

He begins his Gospel with the words *en arky* – in the beginning. Precisely the opening words of the bible – “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”.

John will have us note that Genesis begins with creation – the creation of all that is.

He will have us notice this – for he, John, is intent on narrating, to all who will hear him, the things of our re-creation. Re-creation because all creation is marred by sin.

John (Evangelist) takes it that his readers will be familiar with the Book Genesis – or will be lead therein. And that they will also know that the author of Genesis (lost to us in time) goes on to be specific of the things of this world. Specific things in that God – the one Supreme God, has only to speak the word in order to create.

And so in Chapter I of Genesis, we have, several times, “God said” – and it is so.

We see afresh why John begins his Gospel, “In the beginning was the Word”. And for John the Word is personal, “The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made.”

So, to the finale of John’s prologue, “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. He became one of us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

? So all is well?

Except – that we lose the Word, the *logos*. It escapes us. The Word that was, that is, so real to us.

Hear Angela Tilby’s perspective on this, “At Christmas the Word tells us, shows us, God and humanity united. The Word shows us of eternal reason born into time, and of love made manifest. Above all, the Word is made flesh that we might know that we have a home in God’s heart.” for all eternity.