

Christmas I – 27.12.15

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, and says of Mary, “She shall bring forth a Son and thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins”. Words from the beginning of Matthew’s Gospel. This for Matthew is the fulfilment of prophecy – that one should come and save mankind – save them from their sins – to save them from being intent on themselves – and not on the other person – nor on their God.

We catch sight of the Gospel when we consider for a moment the extraordinary event at present before us - that of the refugees of the world – of their being made welcome in Europe and elsewhere. Not a new phenomenon – but extraordinary, in the numbers involved.

While not faced directly with the refugees, we support those who are. It is imperative that we do this. We and they are made in the image of God.

And we note further words of Matthew in that first chapter, “Behold a virgin shall conceive, and shall bring forth a Son, and thou (to Joseph) shalt call his name Emmanuel”.

Emmanuel – God with us. Who through his son shall save his people from their sins – his people – mankind. And first of all those who are in dire need.

We remember Our Lord speaking to his disciples in a kind of parable – of a King saying, “In as much as you have cared for the least of my brethren – you have cared for me”.

We become real in the mystery of Christmas. Of God with us.