

4th Sunday of Advent

I wonder about the mindset of Mary. Her pregnancy was nothing if not controversial. She was visited by an angel telling her that she was to be the mother of the Savior. This was a scandalous beginning surely? Mary was the young girl shielded by her family from prying eyes. Young girls stayed with the women. They stayed out of the way of strangers. Young girls do not entertain gentlemen callers in the parlor. Therefore, how on earth could Mary tell her mother that she was actually pregnant? If word of this got out there would be huge scandal. Possibly, Mary would have been sent away. Was it expedient to go to visit their cousin Elizabeth? As soon as they arrived at Elizabeth's house Mary was greeted by Elizabeth thus: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." I wonder if this was the first time that Mary's mother found out her daughter was pregnant. Elizabeth was the wise woman who knew how to handle this situation. Also, these were people of deep faith and they believed in the promises God made to them. They knew all about the prophecy of the Messiah. Gradually the story of the Messiah comes to birth. Little by little people are made aware. This was no ordinary child Mary was carrying so people needed to be very protective. We are getting closer to the day of the birth. Just like Mary we are also preparing for the coming of this baby. People are putting up their Christmas mangers everywhere. From childhood we all loved to see the baby Jesus lying in his bed. Our world seems to be in disarray. We wonder if we feel safe. We hope that the Messiah comes to save us. Knowing that the Lord Jesus is with us makes us feel a little bit better. Through the rain storm of tinsel and light we forge ahead searching for our own stable, our own place of refuge. We need to find a place where we can drop our things and take our rest. Please God everything will be alright.

With love, Fr. Pat