



Bearers of Love

Reflection on Pope Francis' message for 4th World Day of the Poor

Advent Week 4

If an alien asked you to define the word love, how would you describe it?

Love has so many meanings...the love of a spouse is different from the love of a child. We say 'I loved that holiday' or 'I love chocolate'..... but we don't class this love in the same context as the love we have for people.

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, we read about God's amazing love for us. His love is so great that He gives us his only Son.....sending Him as a vulnerable baby, knowing this baby will one day suffer and die for us. God's love is beyond our comprehension!

Yet, God could not have given His Son to us without Mary's 'Yes'. Mary's 'Yes' was simple. She didn't ask how it would change her life or what alternatives there might be. Mary simply trusted God and in doing so brought His love to the world. This was Mary's call, her vocation.

Today our call is to bring the same love of God to those He sends us to. Like Mary, we don't ask 'Why me', or 'Is there an alternative?' Like Mary, we simply go, knowing we are taking God's love to someone who waits to receive it

This Christmas may your heart be open to receive the abundant love of our God as we find him in the vulnerable baby in the manger....as we find him in the single mum struggling to cope with life....as we find him in the elderly gentleman alone and isolated. 'Stretch forth your hand' Pope Francis' letter tells us.....but keep your hand open ready to give God's love and equally open ready to receive God's love.



May the infant Jesus fill your hearts and your homes this Christmas.