



Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Saying Yes To God

Introduction

As the birth of a child draws near, naturally all attention focuses on the mother. We are nearing the celebration of the birth of Christ. Hence it should come as no surprise to find that Mary his Mother is at the centre of today's Gospel. Mary was a very humble person. A mere "handmaid of the Lord" was how she saw herself. Her only concern was to do the will of God in her life. She will help us to do it also.

First Reading (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16)

We read how King David had hoped to build a house (a temple) for God. But he is informed that it is God who will build a house (a dynasty) for him.

Second Reading (Romans 16:25-27)

God's plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles has come to fulfillment in Christ. The good news must be broadcast everywhere.

Gospel (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary gives her consent to become the mother of the Redeemer, though she does not fully understand what is being asked of her.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that like Mary all of us may continue to say Yes to the will of God in our lives.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That the pope and the bishops may guide the people of God not only by word but by example. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For those in charge of civil affairs: that they may be found faithful to their commitments and obligations. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



For those who are struggling to know and do the will of God: that they may find light and strength. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That each of us may strive to follow the example of Mary in her faith, humility, and obedience to God. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

The first crib

The appearance of the crib in our churches is a sure sign that Christmas is at the doorstep.

St Francis of Assisi assembled the first crib in a cave on an Italian hillside in 1223.

His aim was to make the Christmas story come alive for the shepherds and farmers of the locality.

On Christmas Eve the friars and the people assembled with candles and torches to illuminate the night.

Then Francis arrived and was very happy when he saw the preparations they had made.

The crib was put in place.

The hay was brought in.

The ox and donkey were led forward,

The woods rang with their prayers

The rocks echoed with their hymns.

Francis spoke to them about God's Son coming among us to help us to realize our splendid dignity.

as sons and daughters of the same Father.

At the end of the vigil

they all returned to their homes,

full of peace and joy,

feeling very close to God

and to one another.