



ORDER OF ST AUGUSTINE

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Office of the Provincial, Australia

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

*The Word was made flesh,
He lived among us,
And we saw his glory,
The glory that is his as only Son of the Father,
Full of grace and truth. (Jn. 1: 14).*

*Christ, through being humbled, came to share your mortality;
So, through lifting you up, Christ brings you to share his immortality.
(St Augustine, Sermon 166,4)*

Dear Brothers

The Prologue of John's Gospel (Jn. 1:1-18) wonderfully integrates the uncontained expansiveness of God that at once transcends and embraces creation with the immediacy of particularity – the Word that is God becomes flesh. Awesome wonder and engaged intimacy – both are true, both are part of who we are, both nourish us at the deepest core of our being.

Probably most of us, with a degree of tiredness and weariness from the various experiences of the year, come to Christmas with the focus on what is present to us in our minds and in our hearts. The joys and pains of what has happened to us in 2021 have a claim on our attention. We come to Christ as we are. However, there are the gentle, graced and insistent calls to be lifted into wonder.

Wonder at the sheer beauty and grandeur of created reality as given to us, Wonder at the beauty of the human, not in the abstract, but in the concrete presence of each human life. The constant call to compassion by which wonder cannot leave us indifferent to suffering, injustice and misery. Wonder at our own person entrusted to us as a gift for which great care needs to be taken.

We come with frailty to the celebration of the Incarnation. Grace slowly but surely immerses us into the vision of the Word made flesh – a vision that brings our frailty into the life of God who embraced our weakness in becoming one with us.

I wish each of you and your loved ones a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and all that is good in 2022.

Fraternally

Fr Peter Jones OSA
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