

## Christmas Homily

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus*

It was coming up to Christmas and Sam asked his mum if he could have a new bike. She told him that *the best idea would be to write to Santa Claus*. But Sam, having just played a vital role in the school **nativity play**, said he would prefer to write to the baby Jesus. So, his mum told him that would be fine.

**Sam went to his room and wrote, 'Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas.'**

But he wasn't very happy when he read it over. *So, he decided to try again and this time he wrote: 'Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas.'*

He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. *He tried a third version: 'Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard and especially if I had a new bike.'*

He read that one too, but he still wasn't satisfied. So, he decided to go out for a walk while he thought about a better approach.

After a short time, *he passed a house with a small statue of the Virgin Mary in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote this letter.*

**'Dear Baby Jesus, if you want to see your mother again, you'd better send me a new bike.'**

I wish you all *A Merry Christmas. Christmas is a feast of joy, a feast of sharing, and a feast of giving. This Christmas invites us not only to rejoice, but also to bring joy to others.*

My dear friends, we all rejoice today because **God has come to meet us and has come to dwell among us and dwell in us**. On seeing the pain and suffering of the people caused by sin, God promised to send his son to save us from the grip of darkness and clutches of sinfulness. God's extraordinary love for us is seen in the

person of Jesus Christ. Jn 3:16 ***“God so loved the world that he gave us his only son”.***

Down the Centuries, often people are obsessed with questions like ***“why should God come in person? Why didn’t he send someone who could fight on his behalf or who could act in his name?”*** Because he has myriads of angels in his kingdom. Here is a small story that helps us understand these questions.

A king once could not understand the coming Jesus as a man. ***Why should a God become a man like one of us? He said, in my kingdom everything is done by the workers, the servants. I give orders to the ministers and the servants and they carry them out. If I have so much of power how much more powerful god must be and why didn’t he use that power to save us. The ministers wanted to teach the king a lesson.***

So, the ministers of his court arranged for a boat trip on the nearby lake. The king, his son, the prince and other ministers got into the boat. As they were going in the middle of the lake the ministers took a heavy stone and wrapped it with fine cloth and threw it into the water. There was noise boom. On hearing this sound, the king came to the ministers and enquired about it. The ministers said Lord our prince fell into the water.

The king immediately jumped into the water and saved his son. He looked for his son in the lake, and he could not find him. So, he came back to the boat. When he got into the boat, he saw his son playing with the ministers in the boat. The king was angry at the ministers and asked the ministers why did you lie to me that the prince fell into the water. The minister made use of this chance to explain to the king *why Christ was born as a man.*

So, a minister asked the king, *MY LORD*, “You have 10 of your ministers around to help and to help the little prince, why then did you jump into the water? If you had given an order, we would have jumped into the water to save the prince? Why then did you jump into the water my Lord?”

The king said because *it is my son*. The minister said *you are absolutely right my lord, because he is your son you yourself jumped into the water to save him*. In the same way, because *we are God's own children, HE himself jumped into the world to save us. The word became flesh and dwelt among us*.

God who is all powerful, who is holy, who is almighty takes the sinful, weak and fragile (fræjjðl) human form to save us, to free us from every darkness, from our sinfulness and bondage.

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians said, *“Though he was in the form of God he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped, rather he emptied himself taking the form of a slave coming in human likeness and found in human appearance he humbled himself”*.

St. Irenaeus said *“God became man so that man can become God. God emptied himself so that we can be filled”*. The Christmas celebration today invites all of us to celebrate the love of Christ, love of God. Christ is God's gift to us. What is going to be our gift to Christ?

If we give birth to Christ in our lives that would be the greatest gift that we could ever give to Christ. St. Francis of Assisi once said, *“We give birth to Jesus through holy works, which should shine forth as an example for others”*. The saint is telling us that we conceive Christ when we love him with a sincere heart and with clean conscience, and we give birth to him when we accomplish holy deeds that manifest Him to the world. According to St. Francis *every good work that we do brings Christ into our heart and the world again and again*.

Today Christ is born into our hearts. May this holy mass help all of us here to give birth to Christ in this world through our holy deeds and keep him secure in our hearts through prayer and virtuous life. Once again, I wish you all A Merry Christmas. May the Newborn Jesus bless every one of us. Amen.