

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US (JOHN 1:14)

With these words John the Evangelist clearly sets out what Christmas is all about, namely, that the Creator of all things became a person, just like us. Because of this God is made tangible to our senses and our intelligence (1). More than just manifesting as someone coming to us as an all-powerful ruler, monarch, or leader, God came among us as an innocent, fragile, needy, and delicate infant. God's journey began just like ours, as a humble baby, in constant need of care and protection.

Through the incarnation God allowed the divine self to be reached and possessed by us, it is the hinge on which the whole of Christianity turns (2). The baby Jesus is 'one of us' and reaches out to everyone with a hand that says I am one of you, I breathe, walk, love, cry, sing, and dance just like you. Our response to Jesus is that we know you are here, that you have come into everything that exists, into everything that we are. (3)

Our gaze is no longer 'out there' seeking an unseen God. Because of Christmas, the incarnate God continues to speak into the heart of the world and challenge us to listen to God's Word and respond, calling us to prepare for Christmas with humility, simplicity, and openness.

In the wonder of the incarnation
Your eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith
a new and radiant vision of Your glory.
In Jesus we see our God made visible. (4)

1. CHRISTMAS REFLECTION POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI
2. VIBRANT PARADOXES THE BOTH/AND OF CATHOLICISM BISHOP ROBERT BARRON
3. THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS KARL RAHNER
4. PREFACE OF CHRISTMAS | CATHOLIC DOORS MINISTRY