

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

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Jesus' coming is meant to be a homecoming for all peoples. That is pretty clearly God's idea anyhow in sending his Son among us. We've had plenty of time to get used to the idea and yet poverty and homelessness is continuing to spiral out of control everywhere we look.





In response, we can be paralysed by a sort of first-world guilt and throw lots of money at “the problem” whenever we are confronted by the inconvenience of people without homes or hope. We can just as easily turn a blind eye and distract ourselves with other issues, as we are wealthy enough to have the sorts of choices denied to the homeless and can find plenty to grab our attention in less confronting ways. We can retreat into a certain homecoming which closes doors behind it and the sounds of the hungry can fade from our minds.



Then again, we can just as easily celebrate our coming home this Christmas to a table with at least one spare place set there to welcome a stranger, someone who will not know the joy of homecoming at this time unless we show them how it's done.



Jesus' birth in a stable is no accident of birth! His birth reveals something of God's challenging humour. As we are all charmed by the thoughts of sheep, goats and cattle wandering the stable as Jesus is born, with a few hoary shepherds looking on, there's no way we'd think of letting any of them into our dining area! Jesus' birth story at once charms and confronts.



Jesus is born as one
without a home.

Let each one of us
make some room for
him at our table this
Christmas time, one
way or another.

Between us all we
can continue to make
quite a difference to
the shape of the
homeless hearts
around us and
beyond us.