

Sisters and Brothers, Merry Christmas!

1.Christmas is the Feast of Light (Is. 9:2 = Mt. 4:16)

People who were walking in darkness, saw the Light!!

In 700 BC- Isaiah; and *Brahadaranika Upanishad*. 1:3 -Yatra Mantra=
Thamasso ma Jyotir gamaya = lead me from darkness to light.

Due to disobedience of man, who wanted to be like God, the *God- man relationship broke up*. Darkness, in the form of sin, pain, death entered the world. The Humanity started craving for light, of hope, of salvation.

Promise of a saviour, expectations of generations, for centuries. In the *“Fulness of time”, the promise fulfilled, the Saviour is born, of a Virgin.*

In Today’s world, darkness is powerful:

Darkness of hatred, injustice, intolerance, secularism, killing, pain and poverty, rejection and loneliness, fear, despair, and anxiety.

Into this darkness, *Jesus the only hope for humanity, is born as LIGHT* -to remind us that we need to re-instate the light within us, and to place it upon the table, to be seen.

2.Christmas: Feast of “Emmanuel”= God with us!

If God is with us, who can be against us?

-God became man, not to make man, God, but to make him more human, a better person. It was not possible for man(fallen) to save human kind, but needed a God. But God decided to save man, not by being God, but by “becoming man”, like him’. To be with man, through a human person-Mary.

One who is without beginning, when was “born”, every beginning, every human birth became meaningful.

Today we see around, the man is becoming less and less “human”. Christmas is an invitation to become *more human*.

3. Christmas= the feast of sanctity of the manger: its openness

From the “security of Inn” -to the limitedness of manger - no closed doors / its open, exposed to cold, danger, but welcoming!

While the Inn represent power, protection, strength, richness and security, *Manger* is =sign of simplicity, humility, openness, sharing and welcoming’, which becomes abode of peace, for the king of peace.

Today, we are invited:

- To say goodbye to the works of darkness, as Jesus the Light wants to enter into our lives.
- To allow ourselves to become more and more human, in our words and deeds
- To become men and women of good will, to make space in our heart for the other and to become ‘instruments of peace’.

When we embrace the simplicity, the openness and sharing spirit of the manger, *it is truly Christmas for us; Our celebration become meaningful.* God starts to dwell within us, *because he is Emmanuel, God with us.*

The Lord of manger fill your heart with the joy and peace!

Lovingly,

Fr James