

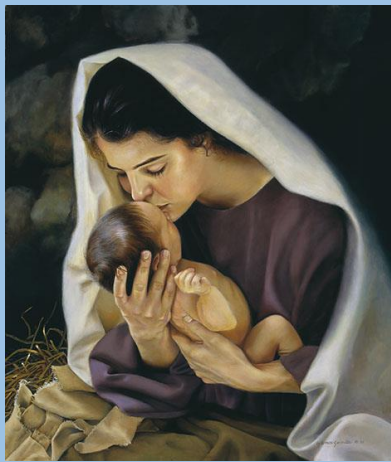
This year 2020 has been a year different to any other we have lived through.

The universal human experience has been one of illness, loss, stress and fear. We have been forced to let go of so much, to delve deeper, to wait and to trust.

As we conclude our Advent journey and celebrate the feast of Christmas this year we think of Mary, our mother. Into the normalcy and the ordinariness of her everyday life God broke in. He initiated and invited her into the most amazing relationship with the Divine.

She heard his invitation and though it brought stress, fear and upheaval to her life, her surrender, her "yes" was complete.

She waited in silence with humility, with a heart that was filled with hope, not for something but in someone.



Mary's response allowed God to become flesh in our world.

Her "yes" allowed the Christ child to grow within her and to be born of her.

God invites each of us to say a deep "yes" with Mary this Christmas, to surrender to His invitation to grow in deeper intimacy with Him, to consent to His presence and action within us, to welcome Christ, Emmanuel - God with us, to be born in us too.

*I wait for you, my soul waits, for in your love I would live
My soul awaits the Beloved as one awaits the birth of a child
Or as one awaits the fulfilment of their destiny. Psalm 130*