



*'Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does.
The word of God shapes our prayer and worship.
The Bible helps us to understand the world,
how we are called to live and relate to each other.'*

www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/

Christmastide is coming to an end.

As I look back over the past few weeks, I ask myself:

In what ways did God speak to me during these festive days?

How far did his word help me to celebrate his coming into the world ...
and his coming into my heart?

How did I live and share my faith with others?

... and if you've only got a minute ...

I will cause **your name to be celebrated** in all generations
therefore the peoples will praise you for ever and ever.

Psalm 44 (45): 17

I live now, not with my own life but with the life of
Christ who lives in me.

Galatians 2: 20

I pray that the **sharing of your faith** may become effective
when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.

Philemon 1: 6

**St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham
wishes you a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

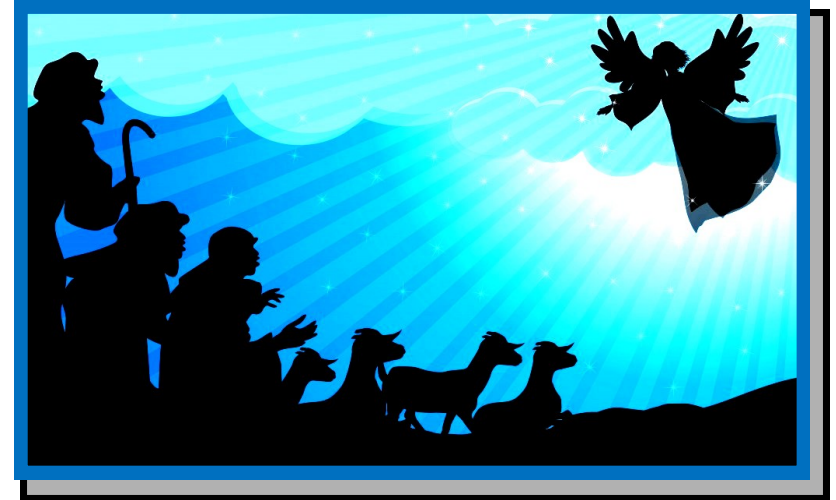


*Your next Prego leaflet
will be posted on Friday 3 January 2020*



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 CHRISTMASTIDE 
2019–2020



Throughout 2020, we are invited to
CELEBRATE, LIVE and SHARE
the Word of
THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

This Christmastide, the Scripture we pray may remind us of some
of the many different ways in which God has spoken to us all
through the ages, and how he may be speaking to *me* today.

We read that God spoke to people while they were at work, at home,
and even while they were asleep and dreaming.

He spoke to them through the angel of the Lord and the prophets.

He spoke to give good news, even in the most difficult of times, and
they listened to him.

**GOD SPEAKS TO ME AND TO ALL PEOPLE TODAY
IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.**



Christmas Day: Mass at Midnight

Luke 2: 1–14

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David’s House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy his favour.’

I have come to sit with the Lord; to be in his presence.

I give myself time to settle down, to put everything else to one side for a while. My God speaks to me through his word, and I can converse with him as I would with a faithful friend.

I become still in his company to hear what he is saying to me.

Even if I am familiar with today’s text, I try to take time to read it slowly, perhaps a few times over. I might find something I haven’t noticed before.

If I wish to put myself in the scene, today’s dramatic reading may take me on a long, difficult journey where I meet many people ...

from a powerful Emperor to a vulnerable baby born in poverty.

On the way, I encounter great hardship and tremendous fear.

Then – suddenly – I find myself in the company of shepherds and angels, enjoying the most wonderful celebration of all time.

If it helps, I imagine myself telling the story for the first time as if to a small child. I notice the anxiety in their eyes: what will happen to these people? Will Herod manage to find Jesus and harm him?

Then I see the relief on their face as they learn God has spoken to the wise men in a dream, and told them not to tell the evil king what they know.

Once again, I look at my own life, and perhaps remember times when I have kept quiet about something that I felt might harm someone else.

What happened? How did I sense it was better not to share what I knew?

In what way did God speak to me then?

When the time comes to conclude my prayer, I thank the Lord for being with me and for guiding my steps in a ‘different way’ .

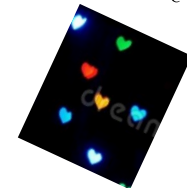


In what ways can I share God’s word?

In speaking to the people I meet.



In acting in ways that show his presence and love.



In reading in church.



In being a light for those who walk in darkness.





The Epiphany of the Lord (6th January)

Matthew 2: 1–12 (abridged)

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. ‘Where is the infant king of the Jews?’ they asked. ‘We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.’ When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ‘At Bethlehem in Judaea,’ they told him, ‘for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.*’ Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. ‘Go and find out all about the child,’ he said, ‘and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.’ ... But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

It may be that the hectic days around Christmas are now over, or perhaps the past few days have been quiet and reflective. However I feel, I take a few moments to put aside all that prevents me from being close to the Lord. I trust he is with me, always ready to speak to me in this time of prayer. I read the familiar text, trying to imagine the scene ... the different characters speaking to each other, sharing information. I see the different ways God is speaking to them: through a star; through prophets; in a dream. I ponder. When have I been aware of God speaking to me? Maybe it was through a person sharing an important piece of news? Perhaps I can see now how much this changed my outlook on life, even if I did not realise it at the time? I tell the Lord about all this in my own words, and give thanks. The wise men, the chief priests and the scribes freely shared what they knew, unaware of the trap Herod was setting for them.

As I contemplate this extraordinary chain of events, I may be drawn to a particular word or phrase in the text, or perhaps an image which holds my attention. If so, I stay with it for a while to consider ...

Is my Lord speaking to me in the silence? I listen ...

If distractions invade this sacred space, I acknowledge them, let them go, and return my attention to prayer.

Is there anything I want to say to my Lord Jesus, my Saviour, whose birth I am remembering and celebrating today?

When I am ready to return to all the practical things I may need to do, I conclude this blessed time, knowing that Jesus goes with me.



In what ways can I celebrate God's word?



In song



In the Eucharist



In prayer



In helping others



In joyful gatherings



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Sunday 29th December)

Matthew 2: 13–15, 19–23

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod’s death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

Before I begin my prayer, I take a few moments to reflect on my mood. Maybe I am exhausted after the hectic Christmas days; or maybe I am on my own, perhaps feeling lonely ... or quietly content. Whatever it is, I acknowledge it, trusting that God is with me, loving me and supporting me.

After a few deep breaths, I breathe normally and start reading the text above. Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. What comes to my mind when families are mentioned? Whether my experience of family is positive or not, I share with the Lord whatever is in my mind and heart. He knows, he understands.

God speaks to Joseph in a dream. I ponder this.

I remember this is not the first time God has spoken to Joseph in this way.

How does God speak to me?

Maybe words are not needed?

Living God’s word for Joseph and his family means becoming refugees and leaving their land. I reflect on all those people throughout the world who have the same experience; I may even be one of them.

I ask the Lord to be ever-present and supportive.

If it helps, I try to imagine how Joseph and Mary must have felt as they left for Egypt, or when they decided to settle in Nazareth. Perhaps I think of what they might have said to each other ... their anxiety for the safety of their baby. How did they live, protect, and nurture God’s Word in their daily lives?

As I come towards the end of my prayer, I may find myself looking at Joseph and his family with new eyes. I tell my living Lord how I feel about them.

I ask him to help me live his word in my own daily life with the same commitment as Mary and Joseph, and thank him for being with me, most especially in this time of prayer.



In what ways can I live God’s word?

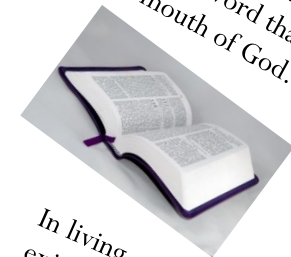
In living under Jesus’s standard and values.



In performing my daily tasks with the utmost care and commitment.



In ‘not living on bread alone’, but ‘by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’



In living, moving, and existing through him.

