

Homily –Jn.1: 1-18  
Second Sunday of Christmas, Year B  
2<sup>nd</sup> / 3rd January 2021

---

During the Second World War, plane travel and television were still in their infancy. One Christmas day, during the war, a young family – father, mother and children -, they were all outside making a snowman.

Suddenly a plane passed directly overhead. The mother shouted to the children, “That’s the plane your uncle is on. Let’s all wave. May be, he’ll see us”. And the children jumped up and down, waved frantically, and shouted at the top of their voices.

Seconds later, after the plane had passed, the tiniest child turned to her Dad and asked: “Daddy, how do people climb up to the sky to get into the planes?”. Now, her Dad explained to her that the passengers didn’t have to climb up to the sky to get into the planes. Rather, the plane came down from the sky to the passengers”.

Well! That story, I believe, is a beautiful illustration of what this season is all about. John the evangelist in today’s Gospel is trying to tell us that we don’t have to climb up to the sky to get to God. Because, “God has come down to earth, to us”.

Yes! The Infinite God, at a point in time, crossed an unimaginable border and personally entered our world. And so, 2000 years ago, like a great star, Jesus came down from heaven and lit up the darkness of the world.

The Gospel Reading of today would speak of Jesus as “the real light that comes and shines on all” And it adds: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out”.

Now, what Jesus was to the world of His time, He wants us to be to the world of our time. We too must be a beam of light in the midst of darkness, a ray of hope in the midst of despair”.

The English writer John Ruskin left us with a splendid image of what Jesus wants us to be in our world.

In Ruskin’s time, electricity hadn’t been discovered yet. City streets were lit at night by gas lamps. City lamplighters had to go from lamp to lamp, lighting them with a flaming torch.

One night, when Ruskin was a very old man, he was sitting in front of a window in his house. Across the valley was a street on a hillside. There, Ruskin could see the torch of a lamplighter lighting lamps as he went.

Because of the darkness, Ruskin couldn't see the lamplighter. He could see only His torch and the trail of lights, it left behind him.

After a few minutes, Ruskin turned to the person next to Him and said: "That's a good depiction of a Christian. People may never have known him or her, may never even have seen him or her. But they know he or she has passed through their world by the trail of lights he/ she left lit behind".

Well! The invitation that is extended to each of us today is this: that we become a beam of light in the midst of darkness, a ray of hope in the midst of despair".

If Jesus is to be born into today's world, it must be through you and me. To the extent that we heed the invitation of this season, to that extent, will the world receive the gift of Christmas: 'peace on earth and good will toward all'.

God bless you all, **Amen.**

**Fr. Yashin**