

## Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

*'Faith is a bird that looks for dawn and sings while it is still dark'*

I was reminded of this quotation as I collected our paper one early morning. A blackbird's song rang out – loud and clear – in the December darkness. What a joyful sound! We have all been waiting for the dawn as the past nine months of the Pandemic have relentlessly evolved. It has brought with it a mixture of emotions and situations, good and bad, including death for some. We trust that at some time, our 'new normal' will end.

Thankfully a vaccine for all is now in sight. Our thanks must go to all who have worked so tirelessly to achieve this and now, also, to the personnel who will administer it. We look forward hopefully, to a Covid free future in the longer term, and in the shorter term, to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ in our own personal ways. The permission for families and friends to meet together, albeit in a limited way, is a huge relief to many.

With Christmas just a few days away, we look forward to following again the wonderful story of a baby born in a stable to an unassuming couple, with visits by both humble shepherds and learned men.



In today's gospel we read of the moment when Mary learns she will give birth to this child. Confused and puzzled – she is not even married – she learns that he is not just an ordinary baby but one who

*"Will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."*

One wonders what she understood from that part of the message. She could have no idea of the trauma which lay ahead, and yet with simple obedience she commits herself to her calling and puts her trust in God.

We too must put our trust in God as we look into an uncertain future. Like Mary, we do not know what lies ahead, but we do know that God will be always with us if we just in Him.

*"Let us sing in our hearts this Christmas, while we look for the dawn".*

*Mary Scott*