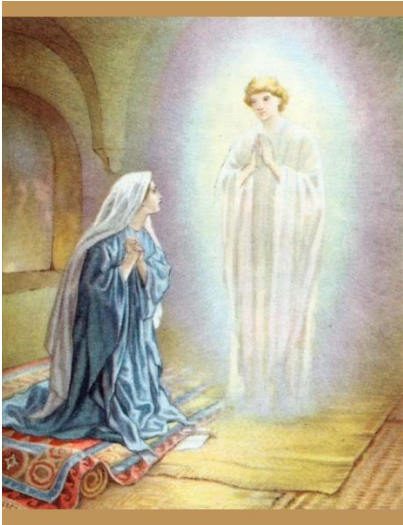


## Praying Through This Week 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021



**“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...”** Luke 1:31-32  
**“I am the Lord’s servant,”** Mary answered. **“May your word to me be fulfilled...”**  
Luke 1:38

In this week before Christmas, can I invite you to pause from the busyness of the season and sit with Mary in her last few days of pregnancy?

Mary is aware this is no ordinary birth and as she waits she reflects, perhaps, on her journey to Bethlehem and the emotions of it...

...*calmness* of going about the household chores...*shock* of seeing the angel...

*apprehension* of what is being asked of her... *trepidation* of telling Joseph, *fear* he would reject her... *excitement* of sharing the news with Elizabeth.... *anticipation* of the birth, *joy* of a newborn and *anxiety* for his future...

We may go through periods in our life when we experience these same emotions. Jesus *felt*.

- May we remember that at all times, God invites us to turn to Him in whatever we are experiencing and trust in Him.

I wonder how your journey to the stable has been this Advent...?

- However we are feeling this Christmas, can we share our emotions with God, be honest with Him? He cares and wants to walk alongside us.

- Can we be thankful to God for sending his Son to live among us, to show us the way and how to live? Are you able to reach out to Him afresh this Christmas and commit as Mary did to Him, saying an unwavering “Yes” to him? Rachel Cheffy

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