

Praying through the week 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023



**“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem ... with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them...”**

*Let us pray, through the re-living of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:4-20) in the Holy Land of today...*

- walk with Mary and Joseph and others leaving their homes... making perilous journeys...seeking shelter...how are they feeling, I wonder...? ... Tired, hungry, afraid...?
- **“...there was no room ...”** draw alongside Mary and displaced pregnant women giving birth in difficult circumstances...cradle the new-born...and Jesus... how is He looking at you...?
- welcome the Prince of Peace into our world today...what would you like to say to Him...?

**“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy...”**

- pray for those living in fear...that they may sense God’s presence...experience His joy...
- journey with the Bedouin as they herd their livestock... ask for God’s protection over them...

**“So [the shepherds] hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby...When they had seen him, they spread the word...”**

- imagine the excitement...can you join in...? ... who will you share the Good News with...?

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace...” Rachel**

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