

As Christians, at Christmas we celebrate that our God entered into a new and unique relationship with humankind; that Jesus came to live among us as one of us, to bring the face of God before us in a radically different way. And the advent season is a time to prepare ourselves to re-immense in this wonderful reality.



The spirit of Christmas, then, is very much one of recognising the value of all people, because our God has identified with us in a special way; and has told us that we find him in each other.

Is there room in our homes, in our hearts, for the Holy Family, in whatever guise they come to us? Have we got room for God in our thinking and in our busy lives.

**We pray that we be vigilant for God's presence and that we may recognise him also in those through whom he speaks to us: children, the suffering, the abandoned, those who are excluded and the poor of this world.**

So, the liturgical season calls us to a time of preparation, and then a time to contemplate 'God with us' and to respond to the wonderful presence of God, not least in those who are marginalised and without power.



May the fruits of this Christmas season then flow throughout the year.

