

Fourth Week of Advent  
Sunday 20 December 2020

Reflection 22 – Day 22

### **Four candles**

As we approach the end of Advent, we near the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ! As Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, *“Now to God [...] be the glory forever!”* (Romans 16.25-27)

But there is more to this *Final Doxology*:

*“Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed”* (Romans 16.25-26).

This is just a snippet, but I find that this passage contains such wonderful excitement and almost a sense of magic and awe – that God contained within himself this secret, this mystery, that is Jesus, the Son of God!

What an honour it is to live in the partial fulness of knowing who Jesus Christ is, having a relationship with him and having knowledge of the persons of God, through the Bible, through the sacraments (e.g., communion and baptism) and through the active working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. This of course, will only be completely fulfilled when Jesus comes again, but let us rejoice in his incarnation.

But remember Paul’s words when you are feeling weak, *To God be the glory, who is able to give you strength by showing you the person of Jesus Christ, his love and his saving power that had been hidden but is now made clear!* (my paraphrase)

Father God,

Thank you for loving me so much that you sent your one and only Son to Earth. Thank you that chose to come as a baby so that we can know you better.

Lord Jesus, I pray to you when I struggle, knowing that you understand. I pray to you when I’m grieving, knowing you know how that feels. I pray to you when I have fun, because you know how that feels too.

I thank you, God, for making me who I am, because I get to call you, loving Father and faithful friend.

Amen