

## **Fourth week of Advent –**

### **The Peace of Christ**

I will ask the Child in the manger to send you, notwithstanding weakness, uncertainty and fear, that peace which the angels on Christmas night promised to all men of good will.

This peace will be yours to the extent that you allow Christ to become the head and heart of your life. More than ever, you must take your bearings from Him who is the eternal truth. The thoughts and works of the Son of God made man must be the only pattern for your lives. Each of His words and each of His deeds recounted in the Gospel must be more precious to you than all human wisdom and more valuable than all new doctrines.

There is no need to fear that weakness and sin may separate you from Him, as long as you humbly acknowledge that human nature has been wounded by Original Sin. Do not be afraid if you are sometimes unable to distinguish what is right from what is mistaken, disobedience from inspiration, the chaff from the wheat. You need not be ashamed, for our Saviour Himself said that false Christs and false prophets would arise who, if possible, would deceive even the chosen. I advise you therefore to listen to the words of the Pope.

It is not without good grounds that the Church begins her Christmas liturgy with a description of the battle between the Messiah and the Powers of Darkness. Herod is still trying to kill the Child by murdering unborn life. Satan is doing his utmost to separate believers from Christ. He finds his helpers, who darken the Lord's splendour and debase Him.

We do not know how many more Christmases will be given us a source of grace to cleanse us from sin and wickedness. So when the Lord comes, let us love Him so fervently that He will want to stay with us. Let us realise that all power proceeds from Him alone. Let us, who are weak kneel daily in a spirit of penitence before the tabernacle, that God's anger may be averted from His people; that the good may become holier, the lukewarm more ardent, the rich poorer and all of us more humble; that those gone astray may find their way back to the truth, and that our own hearts may be cleansed. Only in this way can Christ, lying so helpless in the manger, grow in us and fill us with His love.