

●●●● 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ●●●●

'EVERY LIVING CREATURE WILL SEE GOD'S SALVATION' (LK 3, 1-6)

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9 | Psalm: Psalm 125:1-6 | 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 | Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Song: **Come Lord Jesus - Harpa Dei**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:



Anne-Laure Lavagna - "Touched at heart"

*"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and
every living creature shall see the salvation of God."*

A HEART FULL OF MERCY, COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS



Anne-Laure Lavagna - "Love with Compassion"

These are the attitudes that 'make his paths straight and smooth' (Proverbs 3:6). 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' (Mt 5:8).

"Part of this spirit of reparation is the custom of asking forgiveness from our brothers and sisters, which demonstrates great nobility amid our human weakness. Asking forgiveness is a means of healing relationships, for it "re-opens dialogue and manifests the will to re-establish the bond of fraternal charity... It touches the heart of our brother or sister, brings consolation and inspires acceptance of the forgiveness requested. Even if the irreparable cannot be completely repaired, love can always be reborn, making the hurt bearable".

Dilexit Nos #189



Reflection on *Dilexit Nos 189* by *Maison Magdalena 77: A Community Supporting Women Affected by Human Trafficking*

God's forgiveness is truly necessary for me to find peace.

I speak to him like a Father who forgives everything, everything. He then comes to walk with me in love, in his love that is greater than anything.

The fortress I built for myself when I had been hurt prevented me from asking for forgiveness. I had to remove every stone from the walls of that fortress because they only kept me from living. By learning that my actions could hurt others, by learning to ask for forgiveness, I felt more secure within myself. And getting into the habit of asking forgiveness for little things unblocked difficulties within me.

Yesterday, Sandra asked me to forgive her, and that really touched me. We live in fraternity. We cannot live fraternity without forgiveness.

If you ask forgiveness to soothe your heart and the person refuses your forgiveness, then the peace you were looking for falls on you, stays inside you.

[\(http://www.maisonmagdalena77.fr/\)](http://www.maisonmagdalena77.fr/)

"A heart capable of compunction will grow in fraternity and solidarity. Otherwise, "we regress and grow old within", whereas when "our prayer becomes simpler and deeper, grounded in adoration and wonder in the presence of God, we grow and mature.

We become less attached to ourselves and more attached to Christ. Made poor in spirit, we draw closer to the poor, those who are dearest to God". This leads to a true spirit of reparation, for "those who feel compunction of heart increasingly feel themselves brothers and sisters to all the sinners of the world; renouncing their airs of superiority and harsh judgments, they are filled with a burning desire to show love and make reparation". The sense of solidarity born of compunction also enables reconciliation to take place.

The person who is capable of compunction, "rather than feeling anger and scandal at the failings of our brothers and sisters, weeps for their sins. There occurs a sort of reversal, where the natural tendency to be indulgent with ourselves and inflexible with others is overturned and, by God's grace, we become strict with ourselves and merciful towards others". *Dilexit Nos* # 190

***How do I welcome these words (from the Gospel and the Pope?)
What is it that speaks to me? What are they saying to me?
For me, the Heart of Jesus is...? How does His Heart touch me?***

Anne-Laure Lavagna - "Of tenderness"



The encyclical through the senses

This week, we can focus our attention on 'gestures that reflect the heart'.

"Christ showed the depth of his love for us not by lengthy explanations but by concrete actions." *Dilexit Nos* # 33

"He became as close to us as the simplest, everyday realities of our lives." *Dilexit Nos* # 34

Which gestures will I make to help others, to show tenderness, openness, service and generosity?

