



Vox Populi

19 December 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is the final Sunday before Christmas. It represents that final time of preparation before the Nativity of the Lord.

In the Gospel, we reflect on Christ's divinity, even before he is birthed into the world. John the Baptist leaps for joy in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, as he senses the presence of Christ, and Elizabeth calls Mary "the mother of my Lord".

It is the recognition that Christ is already in their midst and that He is the Messiah.

Just a few days later, we will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the celebration for which the Season of Advent has been preparing us.

This year in particular, the Nativity takes on an extra dimension, as the Holy Father begins the 2025 Jubilee Year, opening the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve.

As we celebrate the coming of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we also celebrate the beginning of the Jubilee year, a time of renewal and hope.

The jubilee year is a special year of forgiveness of sins and the remission of punishment due for sin. It's a time to reconcile with each other and with God, most particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It's also a time for us to grow spiritually, through prayer and participation in the life of the Church.

As we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord, let us reflect on how we can commit ourselves even more to following His example of holiness in this Jubilee Year. How can we live out the Gospel that God became man to preach.

Will we dedicate more time to prayer? Will we find more time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Will we go on pilgrimage? Will we offer our time more to serve others or serve the Church?

May the spirit of the Christmas season reinvigorate us and renew us in our mission for the year ahead.