

## Reading and prayer 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Matthew 1:18-24

Father Almighty, we give thanks for Joseph and Mary who said 'Yes' to your requests and brought to fruition your plan of salvation for us all. May we, who follow in the footsteps of those before us, who have faithfully obeyed, be given courage and Grace to continue to say a resounding 'Yes' to all that is laid before us to do. Amen

