

## **St Peter's Brighton Beach**

### **'To seek and to save the lost'**

After nine months of being lost in lockdown, and in the busy approach to Christmas, suddenly, everything fell still. Everything around me. Everything within me. As a song came on the radio. As if, from another world. As if, from heaven itself.

O Magnum Mysterium, in English, O great mystery, is, quite simply, a masterpiece. Go home and listen to it on Youtube. Its American composer, Morten Lauridsen said of it "I wanted this piece to resonate immediately and deeply into the core of the listener, to illumine through sound.' To illumine through sound, the great mystery, of the Word made flesh. Of God with us. To seek and to save the lost.

Christmas resonates immediately and deeply into the core of our being. To illumine, through sound, and sight, and silence, the message, of God's great love for the world. A love revealed, a love unveiled, in the face of Jesus, the Word of God. The Word of God, through whom, we hear, the world made.

Christmas is the story of God reaching out into the world. To search for it. To find it. To bring it home. To bring it back to himself. To bring it back, from whence it came. 'All hearts come home at Christmas.' At Christmas, the world itself comes home.

However lost the world may become, it is never so lost, that God cannot find it. That cannot save it. That God cannot come, and to bring it home once more. In the Gospel of John, we read that God came to his own home. God came to his own children. God came, not to an alien place, but to the world that he has made. And that he loved so much that he gave his Son, that the whole world may be saved. Wherever, and whenever, it has become lost.

Christmas says that God is with his world. And he is with it, to seek and to save it. Whenever, and wherever, it has become lost. That it might be once more, what God created it to be. The world, of the children of God. For that is what we all are. Children of God.

At Christmas we celebrate the God who is with us. The God who has come to his own home. To reveal to that home the truth about God. To reveal to that home the truth about itself.

This New Year we are, each one of us, called by God, to proclaim to the world that truth. And to allow ourselves to be taken up into the dynamic of God's love for the world. A love that desires that none be lost. A love that seeks out and that saves the lost.

Happy New Year! Go!

Knowing that, because we are God's children,  
A fact that no amount of straying, no amount of turning away, can take away from us. God  
came to his own.

At Christmas we go deeper. Christmas goes to the heart of the matter. Of who we are. Of  
who God is.

There is a photograph in my home of origin. Of me as a young boy. Maybe 7 or 8. I never  
liked that photograph as a boy. It is the first thing that comes to mind when I think about  
who I am. Who I am in relation to God. Who I am as God has created me to be.

There is an embroidered

All hearts come home at Christmas

Opening story      All hearts come home at Christmas

Main point      He came to his own home  
And his own people did not accept him  
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God  
Who were born, not of the will of men, but of God

Illustration      Where meek hearts will receive him still the dear Christ enters in

First point

Is God absent, or present?

Did God come to a foreign country or did God come to his home?