

# PROCLAMATION

of the Lord's Incarnation

from the *Roman Martyrology*  
adapted for the Order of Preachers



*The Nativity with Six Dominican Friars*, Italian, c. 1275  
Rosenwald Collection, U.S. National Gallery of Art



*St Dominic's Priory*  
*Camberwell*

## 24TH DECEMBER

Today, according to the venerable tradition of the Order, a certain special celebration is held - and appropriately so - in our communities to proclaim solemnly the joyous announcement of the birth of the Lord, the Saviour of the world. All the members of the conventual chapter should be gathered together, in a spirit of faith and love, for this celebration.

This celebration may be arranged as an independent event, in the form of a "Solemn Chapter", following our customs (suitably adapted), or may be combined with some part of the Office, taking in account the nature of the celebration ...

It is fitting that the whole liturgical celebration be introduced with a brief instruction, and that a suitable homily be given, either straight after the solemn proclamation of the Lord's Incarnation, or after the reading of the Gospel, according to the circumstances.

- *Proprium Officiorum Ordinis Prædicatorum*  
Rome, 1982, p. 691 & p. 110

The form of celebration set out below is intended for use at the end of Morning Prayer on 24th December. The texts are taken from the 2001 edition of the *Martyrologium Romanum*, but the melody used is that customary in the Order of Preachers. The reference to the day of the lunar month is valid for 2004.

*The Office of Morning Prayer is celebrated as far as the Concluding Prayer inclusive, but the greeting blessing and dismissal are omitted.*

*Then the Lector goes to the pulpit and immediately begins with the announcement of the following day. The community remain standing in choir.*

Eight days before the Kalends of January, thirteenth of the lunar month.

**I**nnumerable ages having passed since the creation of the world, when in the beginning God created heaven and earth and formed mankind after his own image;

many centuries after the flood, when the Most High placed his rainbow in the heavens as a sign of peace and of the covenant;

twenty-one centuries after the going forth of Abraham, our father in faith, from Ur of the Chaldees;

thirteen centuries from the exodus of the people of Israel out of Egypt, led by Moses;

about one thousand years from the anointing of David as King;

in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

in the year seven hundred and fifty-two from the founding of the city of Rome;

in the forty-second year of the rule of Caesar Octavian Augustus;

when the whole world was at peace:

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, being pleased to hallow the world by His most gracious coming, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since His conception, having become Man, was born at Bethlehem in Judah of the Virgin Mary.

*Here all kneel. At a sign from the prior, all rise and the reader continues:*

#### **THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.**

At Rome, the commemoration of Saint Anastasia, a martyr of Sirmium in Hungary.

Also at Rome, in the cemetery of Apronianus on the Latin Way, the martyr, Saint Eugenia.

Also at Rome on the Latin Way, the martyrs, Saints Basil and Jovinian.

At Barcelona in Spain, Saint Peter Nolasco, a priest, who, together with Saint Raymund of Peñafort and King James the First of Aragon, is believed to have founded the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Ransom for the redemption of captives, and who gave himself wholeheartedly to work and study, at a time when the infidels held power, to procure peace and to free Christians from the yoke of slavery.

At Cracow in Poland, Saint Adalbert Adam Chmielowski, a religious, an outstanding artist, who devoted himself to the poor, striving to assist them in all ways, and who founded Congregations of Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis for the service of the poor.



V. Precious in the eyes of the Lord  
R. Is the death of his faithful.

**SHORT GOSPEL READING**

**JN 1 : 1 - 3A**

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

*Then the prior or hebdomadarian says the following prayer, without "Let us pray" :*

May Holy Mary, Holy Father Dominic,  
and all the saints  
intercede for us before the Lord  
that we may be worthy to be helped and saved by Him  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

May the Lord bless us,  
and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
And may the souls of the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God  
rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.