

Looking Forward



“Mary arose and went with haste”
(Luke 1 : 39)

In June 2019 Pope Francis announced that the theme for the next World Youth Day, in Lisbon in 2022, would be “Mary arose and went with haste”. She went straight away to her cousin Elizabeth, already pregnant with John the Baptist. John had the same attitude as Mary :
GET UP AND GO

John grew up in this spirit and lived a life of witness. He prepared the way for Jesus. He preached the coming of Jesus. He baptised people to make them ready and receptive to the Good News of Jesus. He told people how to behave kindly and to live in harmony with others. He criticised wrongdoing without fear and became a martyr – *martyrion* in Greek, a witness - for the Light.

13th December 2020 :
the Third Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church’s New Year. In the Gospel John the Baptist is identified as :
“a witness for the light.”



HOW HAVE YOU BEEN A WITNESS FOR THE LIGHT? LET’S PRAY NOW FOR A BETTER WORLD.

Being a witness needs a lot of courage. Speaking out for what is right and what is fair; speaking out against injustice; and actually doing something to right those injustices ... that takes strength.

In your Christmas charity work, you’ve already been that witness. But you can’t do everything for everyone. You’re only human. That’s why we have prayer.

**WHAT SUCCESS HAVE YOU HAD IN ADVENT CHARITIES?
HAVE YOU SEEN THINGS FROM A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE?**

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS : 14th DECEMBER

You might well have seen a print of the popular painting of *Christ of St John of the Cross* by Salvador Dalí, and wondered at the unusual perspective. St John (1542-1591) sketched a vision he received of Christ on the Cross as though from above, from a heavenly perspective.



Detail of “Christ of St John of the Cross” by Salvador Dalí

