

## Let us pray

Gracious, loving and merciful God, as the light of your Word penetrates our hearts, as we are reminded of the gift of life and faith, as the glories of the heavenly hosts are echoed in our church, we open ourselves up to your Spirit and give you thanks. We are grateful, Lord Jesus, that your story has become our story, and we celebrate your birth. Continue, we pray, to instill in us a profound sense of your abiding presence, and help us to take to heart the wonder of your love, that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will. Help us, Lord God, to be the faithful, gracious, loving, giving and forgiving people you would have us be.

December 2012



God comes in stillness.

## We pray with the Church and the World

General Intention of the Holy Father: That migrants throughout the world may be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities.

Missionary Intention: *Christ, light for all humanity.* That Christ may reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church.

December 1<sup>st</sup> is **World AIDS Day**. Beyond the devastating health effects of HIV/AIDS, many infected individuals also face intense discrimination and other violations of their human rights. Some of the areas include employment, education, health treatment, accommodation, and privacy as to knowledge of an individual's HIV status. Remember all IBVM and CJ members and co-workers who labour in this field to alleviate the impacts.

**International Migrants Day** is celebrated on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Let us pray that migrants will not be marginalised and excluded from society, that they will be given ways to contribute either economically or socially to the societies they have left behind or those they enter. Migration can be a force for good for individuals as well as for countries of origin, transit and destination.

## We pray with the Institute

From 7<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> December , 14 members under the age of 40 from India, Darjeeling and Eastern Africa will meet in Kolkata for an experience of *Dreaming together to discover possibilities*. Pray the energy of the Spirit to be in and among them.

The next meeting for another group will be in Mauritius in June 2013.

We rejoice with the Province in Eastern Africa on the Final Profession of Hellen Oluoch on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. May she be greatly blessed on this day and into the future.

God comes in stillness. In stillness we are near to God. In stillness we experience God's presence. May this Christmas reveal anew to us the power and grace of silence.

## One Small Voice

At present I am beginning to feel the pangs of diminishment but I want to remain optimistic and keep involved, joining the SVP has been a life line and being on the Board of Governors keeps me alert to the Loreto Philosophy of education which is centred in God and rooted in Gospel values in these changing times.

The motivating force in my life is Agape – unconditional love to be received and shared. Now I have to face the next phase of life – whatever that may be, but I remain confident and pray: *Whisper where you want me to go Lord and I will go there.* Ps 86

Anne McLaughlin