

The Nativity in the Big Picture

December 25, 2021, The Nativity of the Lord (Mass During The Day)

Gospel of John 1:1-18

Fr. John

Today in the Latin American country of French Guiana, a rocket carrying the most sophisticated telescope ever developed is scheduled to be launched. It is the product of the work of thousands of scientists and engineers from 40 countries [including Canada] over the past 10 years. If the project is successful, the James Webb telescope will unfold in an orbit between Earth and Mars and will peer at galaxies in the farthest reaches of the known universe. Indeed it will provide a glimpse into the **biggest picture that we as humans can conceive of - namely the universe itself.**

The gospel reading for Christmas morning taken from the prologue of the gospel of John is the **biblical way** of looking at the 'big picture'. The scene of a quaint pastoral setting recorded by Luke's gospel last evening - of a baby Jesus born in a stable in a small village, now shifts to that of a universal and cosmic one of THE CHRIST. John refers to him as the LOGOS - the Word that was present with God before all creation. This version of the nativity begins before time existed. It continues in every aspect of the created universe and will continue after that universe is no more. Now that's a **really BIG picture!** Some spiritual writers even refer to creation as really being the first Incarnation wherein God united spirit and matter. The divine finger prints and DNA are evident in every element of this universe from the smallest sub-atomic particle to the largest galaxy. The letter to the Hebrews speaks of that Word as being: 'the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being and he sustains all things by his powerful Word'.

When we think of it in those terms, it boggles our minds. It also recalls the words of the psalmist [8:4] 'What are human beings that You [the Creator] spare a thought for them'. And yet, today we celebrate that that same Creator has now presented us with a human face in the person of Jesus bringing, as the prophet Isaiah says, 'glad tidings, bearing good news and announcing salvation'.

Yes, when we really take the time to ponder the great mysteries of life and existence we also recognize how limited and small our understanding of it is even with the great advancements of our technologies. And yet God in His divine wisdom has made it possible for us to comprehend something of Himself in both the bigness of His creation and the smallness as that of newborn child.

Today we celebrate a God whose Word became flesh and lived among us and we indeed have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only begotten son, full of grace and truth.