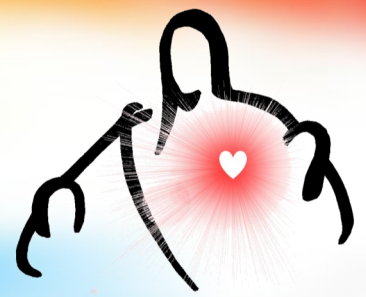


ĠESÙ HĀBIB

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IT-TIENI HĀDD TAL-AVVENT

Qari mill-Vangelu [San Mark 1: 1-8]



Il-bidu tal-Evangēlju ta' Ġesù Kristu, l-Iben ta' Alla.

Bħalma hu miktub fil-ktieb ta' Isaija l-profeta: "Ara, jien nibgħat qablek il-ħabbar tiegħi biex iħejji triqtek. Lehen ta' wieħed jgħajjat fid-deżert: Hējju t-triq tal-Mulej, iddrittaw il-mogħdijiet tiegħu." Hekk Ġwanni deher jgħammed fid-deżert u jxandar magħmudija ta' ndiema għall-maħfra tad-dnubiet. U kienet tmur għandu l-Lhudija kollha u n-nies kollha ta' Ġerusalem, jitgħammedu minnu fix-xmara Ġordan waqt li jistqarru dnubiethom.

Ġwanni kien jilbes libsa tax-xagħar tal-ġemel, bi hżiem tal-ġild madwar qaddu, u kien jiekol ġradijiet u għasel selvaġġ. U kien ixandar u jgħid: "Ġej warajja min hu aqwa minni, li jien ma jistħoqqlix nitbaxxa quddiemu u nħoll il-qfieli tal-qorq tiegħu. Jien għammidtkom bl-ilma, iżda huwa jgħammidtkom bl-Ispirtu s-Santu."

Hējju t-triq tal-Mulej, iddrittaw il-mogħdijiet tiegħu.

Ġesù qed jgħidilna nippreparaw biex nilqgħu lilu fil-qalb tagħna kuljum.

Ġej warajja min hu aqwa minni, li jien ma jistħoqqlix nitbaxxa quddiemu u nħoll il-qfieli tal-qorq tiegħu.

Ġwanni kien qed jirreferi għal Ġesù li hu aqwa minn Ġwanni.

huwa jgħammidtkom bl-Ispirtu s-Santu

Aħna nitgħammedu mhux bl-ilma biss imma bl-ilma u bl-Ispirtu s-Santu.

Salm Responsorjali:

**"Uri lilna, Mulej, it-tjieba tiegħek,
U s-salvazzjoni tiegħek agħtina!"**

ENGLISH CORNER

Gospel Reading [Mark 1: 1-8]

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It is written in the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger in front of you to prepare your way before you.

A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

John the Baptist was in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.

John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey.

In the course of his preaching he said, 'After me is coming someone who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals.

I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The King is Coming

My mother was a very good housekeeper. You could come to our house at any time and never find a thing out of place. There was never a bed unmade or a dirty dish in the sink. You would never find clothes on the floor or a dirty sock hiding under the bed at our house! There was a place for everything - and everything was in its place. Even though our house always looked just fine to me, I can still remember what it was like around our house when my mother found out that company was coming. She brought out the broom, the mop and pail, sponges, window cleaner, bathroom cleaner, dust rags, and furniture polish. Then she called me and my two sisters together and assigned each of us the job that we were to do. When we were finished, mother always checked to make sure that not a speck of dirt or dust remained.

Can you imagine what it would have been like around our house if we had been expecting a visit from a king? Well, that is what I want to talk to you about this morning. A king is coming -- not just any king - the King of Kings! Long before Jesus was born, a prophet named Isaiah said that before Jesus would be born, there would be one who would come before him to prepare the way for him. His name was John. The Bible tells us that John was like a voice, crying in the wilderness, telling people that Jesus was coming and that they needed to prepare for his coming.

When John told people that they needed to prepare for the coming of Jesus, he wasn't talking about a clean house. He was talking about a clean heart. He told the people that they needed to confess their sins, repent, and be baptized so that they would be ready to meet the coming King. Jesus, the King was born. This is the season when we celebrate his birth. The Bible also tells us that he is coming again and that we must be ready for his return. How about you? Are you ready to meet the King?

DEAR JESUS, AS WE REMEMBER YOUR BIRTH, HELP US ALSO TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR HEARTS ARE CLEAN AND READY FOR YOUR RETURN. AMEN.

IL-VULKAN

Kien hemm għajjat ... biki ... ġiri ... biża'. Kulhadd imwerwer jara l-lava taħraq niezla fuq il-belt ta' Pompej ... il-belt tal-vaganzi għar-Rumani. Izda mhux kulhadd kien qed jiġri biex forsi jiskansa l-mewt. Waħda sinjura Rumana ftakret li f'darha għandha ħafna deheb u djamanti. Kif setgħet tħallihom warajha! Daħlet id-dar u bdiet tilbes ċurkett wara ċurkett, ktajjen u giżirani. F'qalbha tħoss żewġ ilħna ... wieħed ihegġiġha titlaq għax il-foga tal-lava kien ġa bdiet tinħass sew u l-ieħor iċanfarha li ser tħalli warajha tant ġid. U t-tieni lehen donnu kien iktar qawwi. U meta mijiet ta' snin wara saru l-iskavi hemm sabuha ... imlibbsa d-dehbijiet u d-djamanti... tipprova teħles mil-lava... imma kien tard wisq. Niħassruha lil mara Rumana għax bidlet is-sħiħ mar-riħ. Imma bla ma nintebħu forsi anke aħna ngħaddu mill-istess esperjenza meta fil-ħajja nsibu ħin għal kulhadd u għal kollox barra għal dak li jibqa' għal dejjem. Kemm drabi ... tlifna l-laqgħat li jsiru għalina ... lanqas waqafna ftit minuti biex inlissnu talba żejżinna għall-Milied u xtrajna l-kartolini izda ħallejna barra x-xbieha ta' Ġesù tarbija – il-festa ta' twelidu ... u forsi anke warrabna l-Quddiesa tal-Ħadd bl-iskuża li m'għandniex żmien!

FESTA SOLENNI TAL-IMMAKULATA KUNĊIZZJONI



Omm Alla, matul iż-żminijiet giet imsejħa u mzejna b'diversi titli. Wieħed minn dawn it-Titli bikrija żgur li kien dak ta' l-Immakulata Kunċizzjoni. Il-Festa tiġi ċelebrata madwar id-dinja nhar it-8 ta' Diċembru. Matul iż-żminijiet dan it-titlu ġie diskuss fit-tul min diversi għorrief u kittieba fosthom il-Beatu Frangiskan Konventwal Duns Skotus, li bis-saħħa tiegħu l-Ordni Frangiskan baqa' marbut ma' din il-Festa. Iktar tard matul iż-żmien, laħaq kap tal-Knisja Kattolika Giovanni Maria Mastai Ferretti, li ħa l-isem ta' Papa Piju IX. Dan wara ħafna studju u riċerki li għamel, nhar it-8 ta' Dicembru 1854, fid-dokument Bolla Ineffabilis festa ta' Marija Immakulata, ħareġ fil-gallareija ta' San Pietru l-Vatikan u ddefinixxa d-Domma ta' l-Immakulata, li biha ġie deċiż li Marija lanqas għall-waqt wieħed biss ma setgħa jkun li tiċcappas mad-Dnub. Il-Papa Piju IX jgħid: 'Niddikkjaraw, nippronuncjaw u niddefinixxu li d-duttrina li tgħid li l-Verġni Imbierka Marija, mill-ewwel mument tat-tnissil tagħha, bi grazzja singolari u privileġġ ta' Alla l-aktar għoli, u minħabba l-merti tas-Salvatur tagħna Ġesù Kristu, Marija kienet ippreservata minn kull tebgħa ta' dnub originali, u għal din ir-raġuni aħna intennu b'qawwa kbira li trid tiġi emmnuta mill-fidili kollha (DS 2803). Ta' min ifakkar li erba' snin wara, fl-1858, dan il-kliem il-Madonna tennietu lil Santa Bernardetta fl-għar ta' Lourdes. Nawguraw il-festa t-tajba lil Bormliżi, il-Ħamruniżi u lill-komunita' tal-Frangiskani Konventwali tar-Rabat Għawdex. Hawn diversi postijiet u kappellel imsemmijin għall-Kunċizzjoni.