



### **Vox Populi - Voice of the People**

30 November 2022

The first week of Advent is coming to a close and we will soon light our second purple or violet coloured candle which symbolises Faith.

It is sometimes called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

This week allows us to reflect on a life lived in the spirit of trust.

Bethlehem is a story about a humble couple on an unwanted journey, at an inconvenient time, to visit a tiny insignificant town.

Augustus Caesar was ruling, and he called for a census to be taken, but God was in charge, and He used Caesar's edict to move Mary and Joseph eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfil His Word.

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary saying she would bear a son who she will name Jesus, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end, Mary said; "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." ([Luke 1:38](#)). Certainly a sign of faith and trust, and it meant that from then on, Mary's life would be a part of the fulfilment of divine prophecy.

A woman of deep faith Mary trusted in God so completely that she cooperated with God's call, allowing Jesus to be born into the world.

The Bethlehem Candle of Faith is well named. In a world of commercialism and "happy holidays", it takes faith to embrace and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.