

Third Sunday of Advent

Christ, The Son of God

“In the midst of you there has stood one whom you do not know... the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to loose” (John, 1:27)

Jesus Christ is not only the Redeemer of the world, but He is also the true Son of God. This truth Our Lord revealed only gradually in the course of His lifetime, because it is so profound and astounding a doctrine that it might have shocked and antagonised the people if it were manifested too suddenly.

However, the words of Saint John the Baptist, related in today’s Gospel and spoken at the beginning of Christ’s mission, indicate that this great prophet probably knew even then that Christ was true God. For he said that he was not worthy to loose the strap of Our Lord’s sandal.

However, with the passing of the months Christ made statements which clearly show that He claimed to be the true Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Thus, He said: ***“I and the Father are one (John, 10:30). Before Abraham came to be, I am” (John, 8:58).*** Finally, on the night before His death, when the high priest asked Him the crucial question, ***“I adjure thee by the living God that thou tell us whether thou are the Christ, the Son of God,”*** Our Lord answered, ***“Thou hast said it” (Matt., 26:64).***

Our Lord confirmed His claims by His many miracles, deeds which could be performed only by divine power, and which consequently showed that God approved of His claim to be the true Son of God. The greatest of all His miracles was His own resurrection from the dead, which He performed after an explicit promise that He would give this proof of the divine origin and truth of His teachings.

Today many persons even among those who call themselves Christians, deny that Christ is true God, admitting only that He was a very holy man. But the Catholic Church never compromises with this modern rationalistic tendency. The Church believes that Jesus Christ is both God and Man and renders Him the honour of divine adoration even when He is considered in His human nature.

In theological language, Christ is one divine Person in two distinct natures, and to this Person we should give the **honour** of adoration even when we picture Him as Man. This is the reason for the profound veneration which we give to Our Lord truly present in the **Blessed Sacrament**.

Practical Application

Frequently renew your **faith** in the divinity of Our Lord, in the spirit of the Apostle Peter, who, when asked by Our Lord what he thought of Him, answered, **“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt., 16:17).**