

Anglican Diocese
of Cyprus
and the Gulf

[www.cypgulf.org/
retreats](http://www.cypgulf.org/retreats)

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Opportunities

ADVENT RETREAT

You can still join in with this retreat [here](#). This is self-paced with video, audio, and study guides.



ART of the
INCARNATION
19 December 2022
Zoom - 7 pm (UK)

[https://](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605542960)

[us02web.zoom.us/
j/81605542960](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81605542960)



BE THANKFUL

Generosity most often leads to thankfulness. Participate in this YouTube [meditation](#) by Sue Riddell.



CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS:
A Rebellion Against
the Darkness
Enjoy insights from this
YouTube [conversation](#).



KATAFIYIO
or other RETREAT
2023

As an act of generosity to God and yourself in 2023, why not organise a retreat in the new year? This can be on-line or in person. Contact Maggie (above) for information.

Generosity

December is here again. It's a time for giving and receiving; a time to celebrate the generous gift of Christ coming into the world; an invitation to receive him again; an opportunity to be generous to others.

Many this year are feeling the spiralling cost of living and concerned about how this will impact their generosity in this season. Sadly generosity is often only judged by how much is given materially.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, in saying her quiet 'yes' to what God was asking of her, was whispering the giving of her whole self to God. Her "let it be to me as you have said" was the generosity we also see in Jesus during his 33 years of selfless service on earth. His ultimate "not my will but yours be done" was a massive act of generosity.

Jesus seemed to notice real generosity. He observed that some were more concerned about rules than meeting an immediate need. He watched what was going on in the Temple, some making a big show of their donations and others impressing him by giving the little which was all they had.

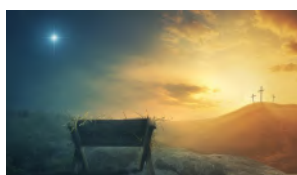
Generosity it seems has to cost something. Maybe it is in time being given to others which lessens time for ourselves? Maybe it is giving resources to others which are more than we can spare?



Maybe it is time given to just listening to God.

**Lord,
teach me to be generous;
to serve
as you deserve;
to give
and not to count the cost;
to fight
and not to heed the
wounds;
to toil
and not to seek for rest;
to labor
and not to seek reward;
save that of knowing
that I do your holy will.**
(Author unknown)

Jesus' coming and life in our world modeled the entire prayer above - selfless generosity.



You may like to listen to this Christmas [carol](#), and consider the words of the last verse. What can you give to God, poor or rich as you are, in this season of giving?

An Exercise

PONDER...

Watch this short [video](#) of the Christmas story. Notice the simple acts of generosity - actions, reactions - that are shown throughout.

Remembering God's generosity given to the world in Jesus, then him giving totally of himself here on earth, how would you answer the following questions:

- What have I done for Christ?
- What am I doing for Christ?
- What could I do for Christ?

and...

- What experiences have formed a generous spirit in you?
- Who are the people who have modelled generosity for you?
- In what ways do you practice generosity with your time, presence, talents?
- Consider what you can do with any hesitancy that gets in the way of your generosity.
- Speak with God about your answers.

* * *

**"Generosity
is constantly
cultivated from an
overflowing response of
gratitude..."**

See this [video](#).