

Advent 1st Dec: What's in a name?



Tree of Jesse (detail). Voronet Monastery, Romania

Rolled up in each of our names, when we are thought about, are an image and a unique range of emotions and memories. We and our stories may represent joy or courage to others.

Opening prayer

I rejoice with Mary and Joseph,
I worship with the shepherds,
I sing with the angels,
I offer my gifts with the wise men.
I receive the living Lord.

Extracted from a David Adam prayer

The story continues...

The family tree of Jesus Christ, David's son, Abraham's son:
Abraham had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob,
Jacob had Judah and his brothers...
...Boaz had Obed (Ruth was the mother),
Obed had Jesse,
Jesse had David,
And David became King.

Matthew 1:1-5

Reflection

The message is bold, direct and electric: Jesus is the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. A history of salvation spills out from this prolonged name dropping for Jesus. The names exude promise, authority and adventure. We with king David and the patriarch Abraham are joined to an intimate and ancient family tree. All of life, captured in a series of names, is joined up by this Messiah, whose name is Jesus.

Exercise

When you read this list of names what name sprang out and why do you think that is?
Or think of a particular family member, what about them is important to you?
Or when you think of Jesus, what picture or emotion comes to you?