

# *O Key of David, who open the doors of the Kingdom of Heaven: come, and free the captive man who lies in the darkness*

Homily, 20th December 2016

Advent Antiphon

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One more time today, the Liturgy of the Word, through a very beautiful antiphon to the Gospel, gives us yet another connotation to the mystery of Christmas: *Jesus is symbolized, depicted, with this image of the key of David that opens the door of Heaven.*

Those keys that He would later hand over to Saint Peter and the Church: *I will give you the keys...* (Mt 16,19).

## **What are the keys?**

They are the instruments, the means through which we are made able to open a door and, moreover, to access a space where it would be otherwise impossible to enter.

**If we think of our own life**, the comparison is easy:

- together with our invisible reality, we have another one, **the reality of our sanctification**, of our freedom from the sin, of the new life, of a more authentic, true, meaningful way of living; we have a life which is waiting for a fulfilment, we have a promise which is echoing in our heart, a yearning...
- **but there is also a wall**, an insurmountable wall, a wall which our poor strengths, our intellectual, moral and spiritual strengths cannot overcome.

Therefore, **Jesus comes to help us with our weakness**, he gives us the passe-partout, the keys, the access; in other words, he teaches us the way to enter.

The second part of the antiphon verse explains what this way is: *it frees the captive man who is lying in the darkness*; the intellectual darkness, the darkness of the sin...

**The key of David consists of the free gift of the freedom from everything that limits us, conditions us, oppresses us and presses us.**

Here we are, Jesus is this all.

He is this hope.

He is this certainty.

He is this gift.

Let's then address Him with trust and let's ask Him every day to give us a chance to make this key work, a chance to be able to open that door.

May the Lord be praised.