

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Saturday 23rd December 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

The Blessing of a Child entering the world by John O'Donohue

As I enter my new family,
May they be delighted
at how their kindness
Comes into blossom.

Unknown to me and to them,
May I be exactly the one
To restore in their forlorn places
New vitality and promise.

May the hearts of others
Hear again the music
In the lost echoes
Of their neglected wonder.

If my destiny is sheltered,
May the grace of this privilege
Reach and bless the other infants
Who are destined for torn places.

If my destiny is bleak,
May I find in my self
A secret stillness
And tranquility
Beneath the turmoil.

May my eyes never lose sight
Of why I have come here,
That I never be claimed
By the falsity of fear
Or eat the bread of bitterness.

In everything I do, think,

Feel and say,
May I allow the light
Of the world I am leaving
To shine through and carry me home.

- Benedictus - The Book of Blessings by John O'Donohue

Jill read this at the Carol service. It makes me think of Jesus getting ready to come to us on earth. Let us pray for children all over the world, for children who are preparing to enter this world and for those who will care and nurture them. Let us also pray for those who grieve for their children.