

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**By Jill Howard-Gunasekera and Revd Kit Gunasekera**

**LIFE**



Although we assembled this on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, I thought I would wait till the Magi/Kings/Wise men showed up (Today ! Happy Epiphany). Our indoor nativity, are the beautiful figures from St Margaret, arranged on the altar. Out of the new born Christ child flows LIFE - the gift tag Jill made for the Christmas service, where we thought about how we can live a flourishing life in what seems like a world of trouble. This happens as we are united and receive more and more the gift of God, the LIFE giving energy of Christ, which flows down to us all, represented by Bryan's beautiful flowers. It is a reminder that this LIFE does not cease in us when we die, but remains in us, waiting for the time when God will restore everything, as Paul says, the dead will rise first, where we will meet our loved ones again.

The sign, symbol, of this life giving unity we have in Christ, is baptism also known as Christening. And it is so lovely that Nadine will be baptised at this Sunday's service, on the Sunday when we think about the baptism of Christ.

It can be very helpful to do something outwardly/physically which reflects what is happening in our inner spiritual life. If you would like to be baptised, or renew your baptism, then please speak to Kit.

So, in the midst of the challenges and sometimes the trouble we face in this life, may our lives flourish, in the LIFE giving energy of Christ.

*In him (Jesus) was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. - John 1:4-5*

Next time you are in church come and see our indoor Nativity!