

SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

ON THE NATIVITY

On this day of His Nativity, the Healer has come for all who are broken: in His care He supports, He binds up, He nourishes and brings healing.” *St Jacob of Sarug*

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels. *Nativity Sermon of St John Chrysostom*

What was God to do in the face of this de-humanising of mankind—this universal hiding of the knowledge of Himself by the wiles of the evil spirits? Was He to keep silence before so great a wrong and let men go on being thus deceived and kept in ignorance of Himself? What, then, was God to do? What else could He possibly do, being God, but renew His Image in mankind, so that through it men might once more come to know Him? And how could this be done except by the coming of the very Image Himself, our Savior Jesus Christ?” *St Athanasius of Alexandria, On the Incarnation of the Word, 13*

Let our mind be there where Christ is. Then our prayer will be with Him and there will no longer remain much place for passions. We will get used to living in this way, and by such a peace-filled life we will rebuild our whole being. *Archimandrite Sophrony, +1993*