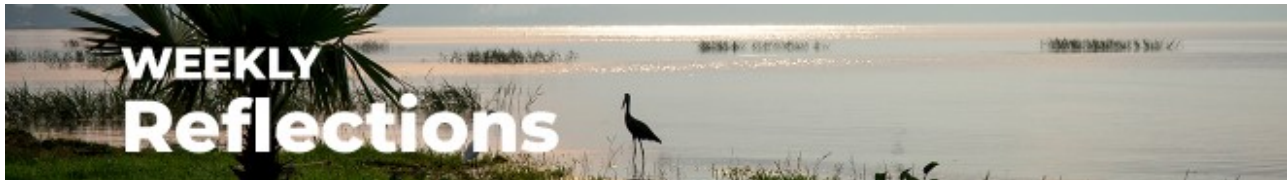


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Based on the gospel for Sunday 18 December, Fourth Sunday of Advent: Matthew 1:18-24

“When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.” Matthew 1:24

Joseph had made up his mind to divorce Mary, when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, telling him not to be afraid. Joseph listens to the angel and welcomes Mary and her unborn child into his home.

Home is so important. It is more than just a place to live. It is, or should be, a place of safety, of welcome. A place where we can relax and rest, where we can be comfortable. It is a place where we belong.

A sad reality is that many women around the world struggle to keep their homes if they are widowed, since their countries deny them legal rights to the marital property when their spouses die. Garmeh, a widow and mother of four in Liberia, faced eviction along with her four children when she lost her husband.

We worked with local experts to help Garmeh prove her right to the property she shared with her husband and children. They can now live without the threat of homelessness hanging over them.

Recently we caught up with Garmeh again. Tragically, her oldest daughter has died and so Garmeh is now looking after three grandchildren as well as her own children.

Things have been really tough, but they would have been even harder without the security of her own home as she says: “I want to thank God and the people of CAFOD for helping me to possess my house. As a widow I continue to face daily economic challenges since I lost my husband. Imagine if I was going to be thrown out by my late husband’s family. How would I have coped with all these challenges?”

Come, Lord, prince of peace. Let us listen to your word as it whispers in our hearts: “Do not be afraid.” Grant us the courage to build peace in our homes, our local community and our world. Amen.



Home for life

Stand up for the rights of some of the world's most vulnerable women and children through the Home for life World Gift. Choose express delivery to get your gift in time for Christmas.

Buy a Home for life
World Gift



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This reflection and prayer were taken from our [Advent calendar](#).



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