

In these times of crisis, we ask ourselves: what can we expect?

The future, what is to come, concerns us most. We worry about it, we expect something from it. We are uncertain about it, often worried, or we look forward to it with hope.

People live in expectation, so much so that it draws them away from the present. This is true in all times of our lives. But it is strongest in times of crisis, in whatever form. In times of crisis, we ask ourselves: what can we expect? What does the future look like? Will things be different?

For us, this time of Advent is a time of good alertness (watchfulness ?) : ready to receive, not frantically (desperately ?) seeking, letting ourselves be surprised, open to the unexpected, open to what is to come.

And what we, members of that great international Chevalier family, can expect every year with hope is the feast of Christmas.

Christmas is an incredibly beautiful feast. The feast of 'God's birth'. God becomes visible and tangible (touchable ?) at Christmas. The love that God is could not remain hidden.

God who is a child, that is miraculous. For a child is vulnerable, dependent on others in order to grow. That God wants to come among us in this way is very special. If He wants to grow in us, He is delivered into our hands. This can shake us up, it seems like the world upside down. We think we will be received by God and wait for Him when we can go to Him. But God turns it around at Christmas. He says to each one of us: may I come, will you receive me.

Christmas is all about invitation. It is the feast of God who makes himself small in order to make man great. Because Christmas is the feast centred on Christ, it is a double feast, a feast of God and a feast of man. God waits for us to receive Him.

We celebrate because we all welcome our brother in Jesus, who shows us the way to God. A sign of hope in this so difficult time.

To all of you and your family, to all the members of our Chevalier family and all those we may meet on our way: a heart bonded and blessed Christmas.

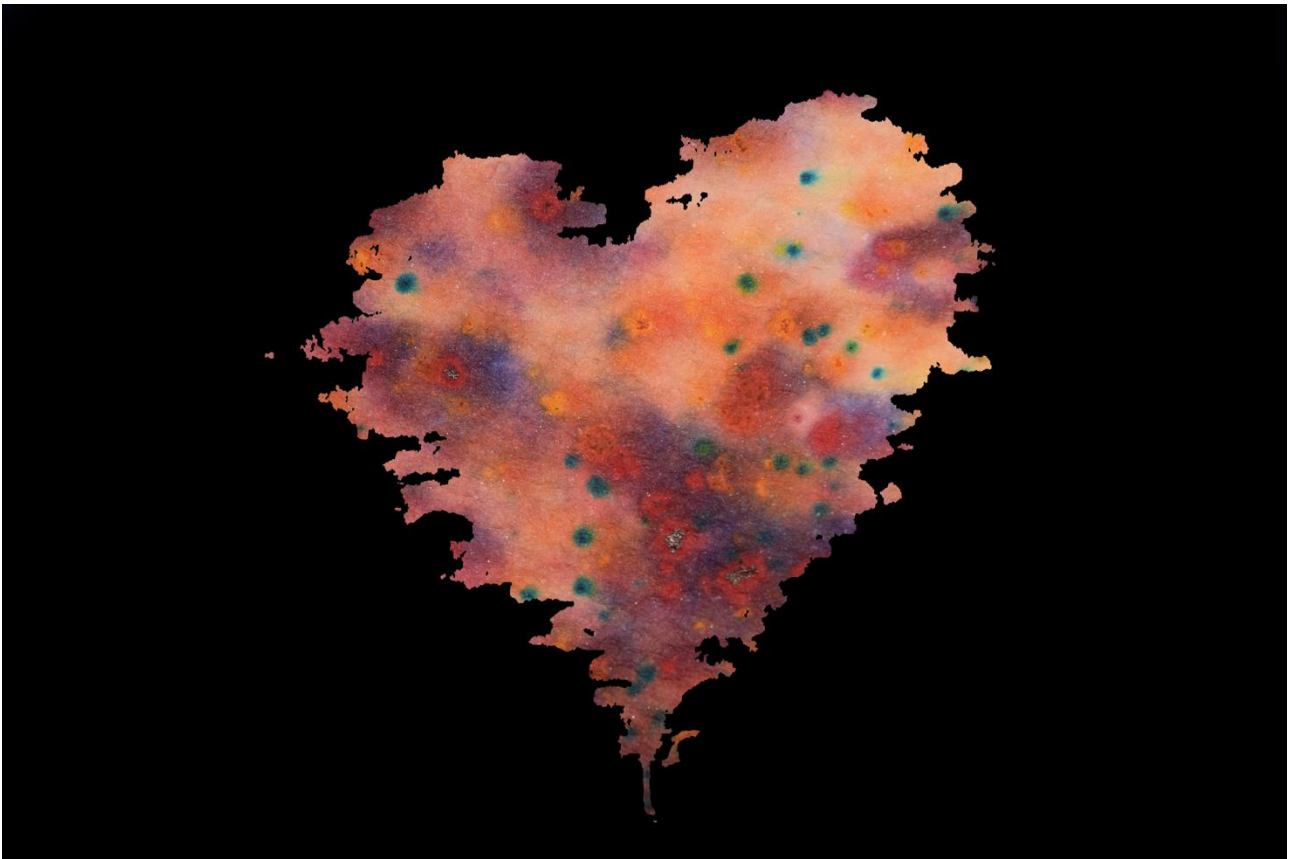


Image: The Blended Heart: Mathew Rutherford, Australia