

Views from the Pews - Christmas Day
Luke 2:1-14 - Glory to God in the Highest

Advent is over and now we celebrate Christmas. We need no reminding that this is one of the Christian Church's major festivals. Celebrate we can and celebrate we do although the world in which we live has turned this most religious festival into a commercial event. Christmas trees, colourfully wrapped gifts, and the lights in Harrowfield are all part of this joyous season and the latter attracts what must amount to thousands of visitors from dusk to late each day in December.

Some years ago I was part of a conversation that sought to determine which was the most stupendous of the Christian festivals; was it the crucifixion, or the resurrection, or perhaps the ascension, or was it Christmas? After much discussion the lot fell on Christmas. After all, Jesus had left the heavens to live an earthly life and to die a cruel and undeserved death – and He did this for us. When you think of it, at least in human terms, it was an astounding decision and one that we mortals would never have considered possible. But Jesus did this, giving us a splendid reason to celebrate each year at this time. God came down to us bringing life and glory.

Of course, not all of us can celebrate - there are some (many?) in our communities that will find little cause for celebration. Maybe they do not enjoy good relations in their families. Maybe they have experienced death or hardship recently. Maybe they are simply among those who have little – whether of food or shelter. At the Cathedral we take steps whenever we can to relieve such stress. We think it is just part of our thanksgiving that God has blessed us so generously and it is a means of demonstrating our gratitude.

At this celebration the birth of Our Lord, let us all show our gratitude to God for all the blessings He has showered upon us by demonstrating our generosity to others in whichever way is appropriate.

A merry and blessed Christmas to all, and may 2024 bring peace in the world and happiness and contentment to all people everywhere.

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