



Dean Phillip's Christmas Message

Christmas is at the same time one of the most joyful, and one of the most stressful, seasons of the year. Seeing those we love around the table, but also shopping in the madness of the Christmas crowds.

For many of us too, it is also a time of sadness when we miss those who are no longer with us or feel estranged from. It can be a time of acute loss, regret and loneliness. So Christmas stirs up many memories and emotions.

However, the story of Christmas is not simply a sweet tale of the birth of a baby, but tells of the very human struggle of Mary and Joseph to travel long distances while she is very pregnant, the struggle to find a place to bear him. And not to put too fine a point on it, birth in an animal stable is not particularly glorious! This story is also told in the shadow of the cross, reflected in the carols we sing.

God with us - in all the aspects of life, in the joy and the suffering, the feasting and the world weariness we may feel at this time. The Good News that because of God with us in all of our human experience has value. The Good News that we can connect with God again. May you find renewed hope and faith this Christmas.

