

SERMON: 2017/12/24 (pm - 1600) (4th Sunday of Advent, Year B) - \_BTR

According to Andy Williams, "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

And certainly Christmas is *magical* season, isn't it?

A time for hearing - and telling - fairytales.

Whether it is 'Star Wars' or 'Cinderella', *now* seems the perfect moment to be enchanted by exotic, outlandish tales of exciting daring-do, of dastardly villains bested and fantastical adventures.

[Gesture to the kids on stage.] And *this* story seems like that doesn't it?

*Too good to be true.*

*Too saccharine.*

*Too unlikely.*

And so many sideline it; mentally square it away along with Aesop's fables and literature of that kind: an endearing yarn from which we can learn moral lessons, maybe, but nonsense, really.

And yet the "gospels"- the four books from which the account of Jesus' birth is taken - are *biographies*.

Biographies that were written or dictated by men who *knew* Him, personally, and they were prepared for audiences who were no less cynical and sceptical than us. Luke, in particular, who is the *main* source for the Nativity narrative stresses, at the outset, that he drew on eyewitness reports.

My point, then, is: *Rejoice!*

Rejoice because what this *true* story reveals [gesture to the kids on stage] is that there is more going on than what you can see and smell and touch.

Rejoice because there is a Creator, and He is at work in *your* world.

Rejoice because 'Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live [forever].' [Jn. 5:25]

Amen.