

Christmas Vigil Mass

Merry Christmas – finally here after waiting – all the shopping, decorating, wrapping.
Tonight Santa Clause will be flying all over the world visiting good boys and girls.

But we know Christmas is NOT about all that –

Christmas is about God keeping His promises

After the Fall, in the Garden of Eden, **God made a promise.**

God promised the snake that the offspring of the woman would defeat him,
On Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Christ - Son of God, Son of Mary

Now then – while God keeps His promises – He does it in His time
In the Gospel we have long lists of these people were waiting for the Christ
Generation after Generation – waiting for God to keep His promise

From Abraham, to Moses, to David, to all the Patriarchs, they waited -

But when Jesus was born angels sang:

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND PEACE TO MEN OF GOOD WILL
Shepherds came and adored Him

Wise men came from distant lands to give Him homage

All this is true and right and proper – but, with all that -

Christmas really isn't such a big deal

What's really important is EASTER

The reason Jesus was born was to get to Easter!

Jesus defeated death, defeated satan –

and through Jesus we have salvation

- God's promise back in the Garden of Eden isn't fulfilled at Christmas –

The reason we celebrate Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is He rises at EASTER

We are redeemed

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus is born.

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus died for us & rose from the dead.

We rejoice at Christmas because Jesus has delivered us

Jesus has claimed a people as His own – *and here we are.*

Jesus is born this day to bring salvation to creation – to each one of us

Let us rejoice and be glad!