

CHRISTMAS 2021

Part of the lead up to Christmas each year are the prominent Advent scenes, either in homes, shops, or churches. There is nothing wrong with these displays, but it's important to remember that they are not meant to be the centrepiece.

What is perhaps much more important is a deliberate *tweaking* of our life attitudes and actions to be more like Christ. What could be done is putting time aside, before the Christmas meal, to briefly mention how God so loved the world that he sent his Son into the world as a baby to reveal the depth of that love for each of us. This challenges us to remember the timeless reality that *Jesus is really the reason for the Christmas season!*

Of course, Christmas is a time for family and friends and the sharing of extra joy, but it's so much more. The real success of Christmas each year is whether it brings us, individually and collectively, a bit closer in love with God and with one another.

It was said by St Athanasius; *"At Christmas, God became like us so that we can then become like Him."* Before us is an awesome yet realistic challenge and responsibility! – *Fr Martin R Maunsell*