

Good people all 'tis Christmas time
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good Lord for us has done
In sending His beloved Son
With Mary holy we should pray
To God, Who on this Christmas day
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born

These beautiful words are from the Wexford Carol,
one of the lesser known anthems of Christmas hymnody.

I share them with you this day
because they remind us
of the GREATNESS of this GIFT
we receive in the birth of the Christ Child.

In our day it is not easy to keep things in perspective,
often the superficial becomes more important than the essential.

As we celebrate Christmas

it often seems that Santa Claus gets top billing over the baby Jesus
that Christmas lights out-shine the STAR of BETHLEHEM
that elves are more a part of the Christmas story than shepherds and sages

When these superficial things begin to cloud and distort the essence of Christmas
remember the exhortation of Wexford

Consider well and bear in mind
What our good Lord for us has done
In sending His beloved Son

It is a child in a manger
the fulfillment of a promise
the love of God for His people
that we celebrate today

Rejoice and celebrate
the child in the manger.
Rejoice and celebrate
the birth of our Lord.

