

When you recall your favourite Christmas what were the events and activities that led you to the conclusion that that was your all-time favourite experience of the Christmas season?

As a youngster, I was under the impression that Christmas was about gifts. I recall receiving a Sear's catalogue and spending many hours sorting through the pages to find my favourite gifts. Some years later, I was reminded that Christmas was about the opportunity to spend time with the people that we love the most. More recently, I have come to the conclusion that there is tremendous value in a phrase that I heard for the first time almost 30 years ago...Jesus is the reason for the season. For me, any memory that includes an experience of Christ becomes the favourite memory.

Perhaps you recall a long walk in the snow at Christmas time during which, time stood still and that present moment filled you with peace and hope. Or maybe you remember the year that you decorated the Christmas tree surrounded by family and friends and you wished that moment would never end. Christmas memories matter.

For most of us, it is easier to remember a visit from our favourite relative, or a favourite Christmas meal when the sights and smells are as vivid in this moment as they were then. Recognizing that everyone celebrates the season differently, I want to invite you to consider your favourite Christmas memory and how that may have been associated with an experience of Christ.

Do you remember your favourite Christmas eve worship service? Do you remember the year that you went to church on Christmas eve, and everything was green outside, but after the service everything was white with snow? Do you remember your favourite Christmas hymns on that Christmas eve?

Today I am inviting you to consider celebrating both those memories and committing yourself passionately to celebrating Christmas as if it were your last...living the Christmas season for all it is worth. Perhaps create a brand-new tradition combining events and activities that would bring your relationship closer to Christ, as well as all the people in your life that matter the most to you.

Let me remind you how much you are loved by a God that adored you so much that He sent His only Son into our world to teach us about hope, joy, peace, and love. In these last days of Advent, may I invite you to consider this Christmas season, as an adventure, one that you will someday say, ' my favourite Christmas was 2025'.