

Donnybrook Family Mass

2 January 2022

Welcome

Welcome again, everybody at the start of a new year. My guess is that some of the children present this morning have written stories. All over the world, people tell and write stories, including the younger people. Good stories can be funny, sometimes about romance, or journeys or adventures. You might think for a moment what is your favourite story just now. When they came out I read and loved all the Harry Potter stories. Another popular series is Artemis Fowl.

The best stories are often about how someone changes. And stories are powerful and they sneak up on us, they draw us in and suddenly were hooked. When we find a really good stories, we know that we are also part of it.

Topic

As we heard in the Gospel, Jesus came to tell a story as well. *God the only Son, who is close to the Father, has told the story.* What story was that?

Steps

Over Christmas, we have heard part of the story – Bethlehem, the manger, the baby, the shepherds. If you listen carefully to Christmas carols the story is all there. Of course there is more to the story, which we will hear in the run-up to Holy Week and Easter.

So what kind of story did Jesus come to tell? We know that it is a love story. Even though no one has ever seen God, God loves us. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16) So he came to tell a love story. Our parents love us, as we know, and God’s love is like that – only, if you can picture it, even greater.

The story Jesus came to tell was told not with words with his whole life, not just his birth. So we pay attention to his life, his words, his actions and also his death and resurrection, stories we will tell again at Easter.

Conclusion

In the best stories, we feel we are part of the story. I found this very much with the Harry Potter stories. We are all part of the Jesus story for two reasons. He came to tell us how much God loves us, each one of us. He also came to tell us that we are children of God and that is what we are. Like all the best stories, we are in the story too.