

EDITOR'S EXPERIENCE

I love Christmas; I endure it, celebrate it, share it; but (and there are some big buts), don't pull in front of me on the road and drive slowly, and don't define Christmas with measures of economic activity and consumer confidence.

We often dryly encounter the "busyness" of the Christmas rush, and it led to my compilation of the "To Do" list for the Angel Gabriel, the Event Manager of the First Noel.

Sometimes it seems that Christmas is something we achieve or accomplish; but if we are open to the essential values of the Christmas message (PEACE, JOY because...GRACE... GOOD NEWS....) then we can experience these in the course of the Christmas season from many sources and express them in diverse situations, and thence it doesn't have to seem so "silly".

There is enough silliness to go around and we have all no doubt gasped in disbelief at tacky, cheesy, irrelevant and irreverent offerings at Christmastime; but we are our own practicers and valuers of Christmas confidence and Grace activity.

We choose our path to, and through, Christmas.

One of our family cherished starting points is the chorus "Christmas where the gum trees grow"

Christmas in Australia's hot.

Cold and frosty is what it's not.

When the bloom of the Jacaranda Tree is here,

Christmastime is near.

Ours is a celebration through cricket and carols, pink zinc and pudding, ham and hamming it up.

It is German, Scottish, American, English, and bits from who knows where; and through time and the diaspora of our forebears, our table is the spirit of the First Noel, as first announced by Angel Gabriel.

Archangel Gabriel's Christmas

TO DO

- ◆ Visit Zechariah, call your son "John"
- ◆ Visit Joseph. Tell him the news
- ◆ Visit Mary, break the pregnancy news & call your son "Jesus"
- ◆ Organise a STAR for the Wise Men
- ◆ get the Angel Choir together + practice
- ◆ Draft a song list
- ◆ Manage the night show for the shepherds and deliver Good News
- ◆ Call the Magi /wise men
- ◆ Gifts ?? What do you give to the Son of God ?
- ◆ Book a room at the pub OOPS! too late
- ◆ Visit Joseph - flee to Egypt
- ◆ Check in with God