

Do you like playing board games at Christmas with family. It was always a tradition when I was a child and something we carry on with our own children that after Christmas lunch we all settle down to a board game.

Do or did you have any favourites?

One of my least favourite games was scrabble and that's because my Dad would always take ages on his go and everyone would get fed up of waiting for him to decide what to do. Still when I play scrabble now it gives me fond memories of him (although I must admit to hiding it if he there when we decide to play a game!)

So I thought this morning we'd have a game of Christmas scrabble.

I'm going to give you 7 letters which you have to place on the board or write on your paper in scrabble format, but all the words have to have something to do with Christmas. I'm afraid we are going to limit the time you have so you'll have to think quickly. I will give you one clue to get you started though and that is that the first word should be placed vertically, it is a 6 letter name of a character in the Christmas story, then you're on your own! Remember each word can use letters from the words or names you've used before.

Letters: PERJSHO
 REPHESD
 MTEROEA
 MNAEGOE
 ARMYDEO
 AANMYEL
 ASNUGEL
 LSSEOUG
 LBOIIOG

Answers at the end of the homily!

Okay, so you were expecting sermon right?

So why is she banging on about a word game?

Well bear with me...

Did you get the last word?

If you didn't it is LOGOS

And you're thinking what on earth has that got to do with Christmas? No it's not some new fancy type of lego and no I've not misspelled something. Logos literally means 'THE WORD' and that is what Christmas is all about.

Never heard of it? Well, yes you have you have, you heard it in the passage that we just heard from John's gospel in the bible just a few moments ago.

I bet you're thinking I can't remember that word being used aren't you? Well you're right it wasn't in the translation we had, but it was there.

John says in the beginning was the word, the word was with God and the word was God. These words that we heard were originally written in Greek and the Greek for 'the word' is LOGOS. And this is what the people of the Old Testament used to call God. LOGOS.

So still what has that got specifically got to do with Christmas apart from the interesting language fact and it fitted on our scrabble board nicely? Well LOGOS is what John calls Jesus in the opening section to his book which was the bit we've just heard.

And John says that the word was in the beginning before time itself was created. God, LOGOS was there before anything existed. And John says that 'the word' LOGOS, became flesh and dwelt among us, the LOGOS was born as a human being, a baby, the baby we see in the manger. So John is saying that Jesus is the LOGOS, Jesus is the word, Jesus is GOD. At the very start of his gospel he is laying out exactly who Jesus is.

So whilst it's hard to think that Jesus, that baby whose birth we celebrate today, was creator of all that we know and all that we are, we celebrate the fact that he is and he chose to come to be with us at Christmas.

But Jesus didn't just come at Christmas he came for all time. He is with us through the good times and the bad for as John says 'the word', Logos, God, Jesus, was the light that came into the darkness of the world and he came so that darkness and death would be defeated.

No matter what Jesus, the LOGOS, the word, will always be there overcoming the darkness as John professes,

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

And God proved his love for us by being born at Christmas, the word become flesh and it is this that we celebrate today.

Amen.

