

Tony Thinking Aloud lxxxvi

Auntie is sitting in her chair in the corner. It is Christmas evening. One after the other the children bring her the plate of mince pies. They each offer her one. She takes them but has difficulty in getting around to eating them! Auntie is aware of the custom (some say superstition) – you must not refuse a mince pie. Where does that idea come from?

The mince pie has a long history in time, some records of Crusades mention it. The mince pie today still relates to the original.

Mince pies were originally oval shaped representing the manger. The sweet meat in the pies (which originally included mince meat) were there to represent all the good things in the Christ Child. The lid recalled the swaddling clothes which were in the manger. There should be a cross cut in the top to assist the baking, symbolic of Good Friday. (Please do not just jab with a fork!).

Other thoughts, you should not cut a mince pie it would be like cutting into the Christ Child. Do not refuse a mince pie...do not refuse Jesus. You should eat one every day in the twelve days of Christmas up to Epiphany, to ensure twelve happy months in the year ahead.

Naturally all the modern additions to the top shaped like a star, icing on top... are inappropriate, they have no symbolism,

Perhaps it is time to think again of the manger. The Christ child comes to help us reflect on love, peace, and goodwill. The Christ Child is for everyone, how well will we live out the message. (And, in my view, like Auntie we should not refuse Him).