

Christmas Messages

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.

Mother Teresa

Let us pray for peace; peace in our world and in each of our hearts.

Pope Francis

Love Always Triumphs

The birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, always triumphs over the darkness.

The hope and light of the First Christmas in the Gospels is proclaimed from the darkness of the night. There is a star that guides. There is the joyful light that the shepherds, the Magi, and all creation encounter in the humble stable.

The surrounding “night” is not simply due to the fact of no sun. It is because there is no Son (of God) in the hearts of some. There are those who plot the killing of the Christ Child. Jesus himself is clothed in cloths and placed in a wooden crib – all suggesting a future death on Calvary. There is no hospitality for the “Prince of Peace” here. This pattern continues even today.

There is the continuing darkness of the wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Africa and other places. Let us not forget that war is always a defeat for humanity – here darkness is chosen over the light of love and peace-making.

There is also the challenge in Australia of re-imagining our relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the defeat of the Voice Referendum.

Also, with the upward trend of the cost of living, this Christmas will be tough for so many to provide the necessities of table and shelter for their loved ones. Yet, in the midst of these many darkneses, dawns the triumph of Divine Love found in the birth of the Son of God – Jesus, love itself. Let us in silence and adoration invite this Christmas light, that chases away the long darkness of loneliness and isolation, to triumph in our hearts, our families and our communities!

Let Christmas joy have a practical expression in helping others. Please give generously to the Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal. It will assist greatly places of need throughout the world. Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Christmas 2023

Dear Friends,

In Christmas time we see God come down as one of us. Why does God do this? He could have written his name in the stars, or he could have had angels tell us everything we need to know. Instead God chose to reveal himself to us by making himself one of us, so that we might be able to know him the same way we know each other.

We see in Jesus, not only God, but a man, a brother, a friend, a leader. We see God not as an abstract force, but we see his human face. Knowing the human face of God, we can also see the work of God in ourselves and each other.

We see the closeness and the presence of God when we turn to him in prayer, when we are faithful to his word, when we do his will in the world and most importantly of all when we receive him in the Mass.

This Christmas let us thank God for the gifts he has given us, especially the gift of himself, and let us pray that we will know him more fully and that we might recognise his presence among us. Merry Christmas

Fr. Alex Osborne

Dear Parishioners

With all the sadness, fighting, displacement that is happening in our world I keep hearing the words, ‘*there was no room in the inn*’. Words that are experienced by numerous innocent people every day. And I ask myself what can I do? What is the meaning of Christmas when the story of Joseph and Mary is repeated day in and day out? Admittedly I am not called to go to the war torn countries but I am called to be a beacon of love here in this community, so that people are welcomed and respected.

For over seven years it has been a joy for me to minister with you. You have revealed to me the face of Christ through your care, hospitality, generosity and love. Thank you. As I leave you I take memories to cherish, deeper appreciation of the Mystery of God in our midst and with confident hope that you will continue the great work of being Christ to all those you encounter.

May your Christmas bless you with Love to make music in your heart; with Peace to give you a deeper sense of Jesus among us; with Wonder to keep finding the depths of God in your everyday. Enjoy this special day. My love, prayer and appreciation, (from a friend.)

Sr Maureen McDermott sj

Collections

There will be two collections today;
the first for the clergy and
the second for the

Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal.

*Thank you for your generosity
to those in need.*

“May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.”

POPE FRANCIS