

PARISH PRIEST'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Christmas is here again! It's the season of the birth of our Redeemer, the Only Begotten Son of God sent to bring us back into life with God. Through the season of Advent, prophetic oracles point to and speak of the birth of the scion of David who would rule the world and establish an era of peace. We have been invited to focus our attention on the celebration of Christ's birth, his second coming at the end of time and his coming to us daily through the life and the Sacraments of the Church. Since the Third Sunday of Advent, Holy Mother Church has triggered in our liturgy the mood of rejoicing. This is not something meant to be limited to our worship; it is meant to be an attitude of the mind, an experience of the joy that is made possible by our conscious following of the Gospel of Christ. That is the reason God's Only Son took on human flesh by the fiat of Our Lady and began to dwell among us. By his coming, we have all of us received the grace of peace, love and joy that will last us beyond this world to the fullness of life with God.

It is this reality of the coming of Christ as man that has brightened up the mood of the world again this year, that despite the difficulties we still experience in the world arising especially from the coronavirus and its various mutants, high infection rate, travel panics, inflation, high migration rates, the threats to world peace and the fear of climate change, children of God are exuding the joy of the Lord. Our experience of joy and rejoicing arises from our faith in the Son of God who loved us enough to come into our world, to take upon himself our pain, the guilt of our sin and the burden of our life, so that he can turn us into copies of his glorious self. Whoever gets a share in this joyful cause must therefore put Christ as the centre of their worldview in order to fully represent the holy, compassionate and loving Son of God.

That is the reason why we cannot celebrate the birth of our Messiah by just eating and drinking, living in flamboyance, wasteful display of wealth and affluence, without a thought for the poor, the lonely, the unloved, the homeless and the rejected of our society. Before meeting Christ we also fitted into all of the above categories, because of our sinful condition. Now that we have been built into Christ's love, we must, like him, show compassion, love, generosity, and empathy to all who stand in need of these values. Our lives must be shared like Christ's with those on the margins of life. We must share all that we have with those who are not as endowed as us. That is what will make Christmas be what it really is: a time to make the wonders of the Lord happen in the lives of people, just as God's becoming man is the greatest story ever told and shall remain so for all time to come.

Have a blessed Christmas everyone, and may the coming year bring loads of blessings to us from the Father of Love.