

A Christmas Message from your Pastor...



DEAR FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS: Here we are again, another Christmas and another opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus. What a wonderful time of year. On this holy night take some time to go outside and simply be... look up to the heavens and listen. Listen to the wonderful silence and feel the stillness of this night. In our fast paced lives this is something that we have forgotten. Stand for a moment and really listen.. can you hear the angels song? Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all of goodwill.”

This night is indeed special and we make the effort to prepare our homes, to cook our feasts. Hours have been spent shopping and wrapping gifts, but how much time have we spent preparing ourselves? Have you taken the time to sit quietly and read the Christmas story in the Scriptures? Have you meditated on the love that entered into the world in human form over 2000 years ago and how it has changed your life? Do you really understand the “miracle” of this day?

Turning on our televisions and watching the news it is easy to get discouraged. It is easy to be pessimistic and hopeless, for all we hear about is what is wrong in our world. We see violence, war, hunger, homelessness, oppression, prejudice, bigotry and hatred everywhere, and the human race seems to be falling apart. If you look around and look with eyes of Christ, you can see the goodness in this world, which outweighs the evil. There is a light that pierces the dark, and light radiates from a stable where an innocent child enters the world, and whose ministry and life will

change the course of humanity.

God chose to come into the world and live the human experience so that no longer our experience of Him would be of someone who is distant from us and whom we cannot relate to, but rather as one who lived a human life fully. Jesus was born to human parents of meagre means. As a child he was helpless, dependant on Mary and Jospheh for food, clothing, religious instruction. For his scrapes and bruises he would run to his mother. From Joseph he would learn carpentry and be advise on daily life. This Jesus was the same as you and me. It wasn't until his baptism that the people understood fully he was the promised one, the Messiah. It was then the the voice of God was heard: “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

The message of Jesus was simple... Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And love your neighbour as yourself. Jesus entered our world to reach out to the lost, the poor, the oppressed, the outcasts of society. He

ministered to the sinner, the sick, even enemies of the state. He witnessed his father's love through example, and that is what you and I are called to do.

This Christmas it is my hope and prayer for you that you experience the peace of Christ even in the midst of turmoil and that that peace can flow to all around you. May you accept the gift of love that entered into our world and was offered and continues to be offered to all humanity. Once this gift is accepted from the heart of God to yours, your life will change, it can be and will be transformed. You will see the world through the eyes of love... the eyes of Christ. When someone is suffering you will see Christ suffering. When someone is in despair you will see Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. When someone is in pain, you will see your Saviour in pain. When you see the addict and the alcoholic you will see Christ in them calling out for help. You see... this is what it means to be a child of God, we are all connected and therefore we all feel each others pain, sorrow and joys. To see Christ in this world and to experience his love is to allow ourselves to be used as his instruments. To bring Christ to a broken world we must use our feet to take him where he needs to be. We must use our hands to do his work. We must use our eyes to look out on our world to see its suffering and pain. We must use our ears to hear the cries of help and desperation. We must use our mouths to speak his truth and to share his good news. We must use our hearts filled with his love to change another human heart.

Indeed, to experience the miracle of Christmas is to make "HIM" room, that the message of the angels over two thousand years ago can still be heard "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all of good will"

My heartfelt wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas, and that the spirit of hope, love, joy and peace enter into your lives and that you share them with all around you. If you are ill, I pray for your healing. If you are distraught, I pray for your peace. If you are worried and anxious, I pray for your contentment. If your faith is in crisis, I pray the Holy Spirit enkindle in you the fire of His love. If you live in hopelessness, I pray for you the gift of faith that you might know the joy of life lived with Christ. If you are mourning the loss of a friend or loved one, I pray you know that they are still with you, just a prayer away. May God give you comfort. If you are alone, depressed or feeling abandoned by family and friends, I pray God envelop you in his love and that you accept that love and know you are his precious child.

From my heart to yours... love, peace and joy! A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With my love and prayers, Father Anton