

# Christmas Messages

*This Christmas Season reminds us*

*That this moment is precious*

*This moment is holy*

*This moment is powerful*

*This moment is love*

*This moment is full of hope and possibility*

*This moment is all we need.*

## Bethlehem Amazement

Sometimes we are offered the following Christmas greeting: "Have an amazing Christmas!" No doubt this greeting can mean all sorts of things. For Christians, the most amazing aspect of Christmas is God becoming human in the little babe of Bethlehem. For us, all other amazements in life flower from this fundamental Bethlehem amazement.

The Christmas scene of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, three Magi, animals, stars and angels are all stilled in silent amazement as they gaze on the Almighty God becoming a vulnerable baby in the humble stable at Bethlehem. Mary's prayer becomes our prayer as she says for all of us in amazement that our "soul magnifies the Lord."

During this Christmas and New Year Season, let us all magnify Jesus in our gratitude and humble response to all the amazing things that have happened to us during this extraordinary Covid year of 2021 - both good and not so good!

Let us show an amazing closeness to our families, neighbourhoods and cities where this time may be a real practical struggle. Now that we are able, let us visit each other- especially those who have had a very isolated and lonely 2021. Then our Bethlehem amazement will also have a real practical expression.

Rest up during this time! We are all tired!

God bless you all during this Christmas and New Year Season.

## Archbishop Christopher Prowse

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse Catholic*

*Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn*

*Apostolic Administrator of the Military Ordinariate of Australia*



## Dear Friends,

I wish a Holy and Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year, 2022. Christmas and New Year bring the message of hope and joy. This message of hope is as relevant today as ever. The recent Covid pandemic has taught us more things than we ever thought of. It tells us loudly that we must focus on what truly matters in life.

As Pope Francis said 'Rivers do not drink their own water. The trees do not eat their own fruit. The sun does not shine to itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. No matter how difficult it is.... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you'.

May you be blessed with Peace and Joy at Christmas and in the New Year, 2022.

**Fr. Sýjo**

## Dear Parishioners

As we celebrate once again the Mystery of God's love and Presence in our world I am encouraged by the words of Karl Rahner sj, "At Christmas, through his grace-filled birth, God says to the world: "I am there. I am with you. I am your life. ... Do not be afraid to be happy. For ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope. ... This reality, this incomparable wonder of my almighty love, I have sheltered safely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. I no longer go away from this world. Even if you do not see me. I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas lasts forever."

As you move into 2022 may your faith be strengthened, your hope renewed; our Emmanuel God is with us and is our companion on the journey.

Thank you for the many ways you have ministered in our parish during the year. We are the richer for your presence, prayer and care. May you have a Christmas of love, joy and wonder followed by a new year of peace and contentment.

## Sr Maureen McDermott rsj

*In the beginning was the Word  
And the Word was Love made flesh  
Dwelling within us, among us,  
around us and through us.*

*May you be God's Word of Love -  
Vibrant and alive in our world today  
Bearing Gifts of Peace, Joy, Love and Hope.*



## Collection

Only one collection today—the **Archbishop's Christmas Appeal.**

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

## A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, You make all things new, You bring hope alive in our heart and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this new year, for all the potential it holds, come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name.

*Author Unknown*