

# Christmas Messages



*Possible things are easy to believe.*

*The Glorious Impossibles are those things that bring joy to our hearts,  
hope to our lives, songs to our lips ...*

*The birth of Jesus was a Glorious Impossible.*

*Like love, it cannot be explained, it can only be rejoiced in.*

**Madeleine L'Engle, The Glorious Impossible**

## Message from Archbishop Prose

### Christmas—the Vaccine of Hope

Christmas is all about hope. I have experienced some wonderful examples of hopeful living over this eventful year. I witnessed hope in hearing of the generosity of heart shown by the frightened gathered at the Moruya Showgrounds. .... Over the centuries, Christians have knelt in awe before the Holy Family at the Bethlehem stable. They have done so in greater fervour in times of war, pestilence and catastrophe. They have done so not simply to draw personal hope for life after death. They have prayed too for the communitarian hope in the here and now arising from the humility of the Bethlehem stable. This is our hope. This is our Christmas prayer. Emmanuel – God is with us! Do not be afraid! A prayerful and Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

### Archbishop Christopher Prowse

*Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, December 2019*

*(Full message of the Archbishop's Message is on display in the foyer of the Church and has been emailed for those who are able to access it.)*

### Dear Parishioners,

I wish a Holy and Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all.

I would like to thank all of our parishioners for your commitment to our parish over the years. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. And a special thank you to the devoted members of the various ministries in our parish and especially to those who work quietly, behind the scenes.

For many, Christmas is the time for coming home to family and friends. It is important to be close to those who are dear to us.

Let us also come home to the Holy Family as we gather at the Crib. God will fill us with His peace if there is room in our lives for Him.

May the Love, Joy and Peace of Baby Jesus be in your hearts and your homes.

May 2021 prove to be a brighter, hopefully and happier year!

*Fr. Sijō.*

### Dear Parishioners,

We gather once again in hope, love, gratitude and joy to celebrate the wonder-filled Mystery that is Christmas. The God who has loved us, cradled us, nourished us is enfleshed in the infant Jesus.

For me, as I prepare to celebrate Christmas I find myself reflecting on 2020, the year of the unexpected arising from the pandemic; *what have I learnt, how have I grown, how have I experienced our Emmanuel God with us/me?* For me, Christmas is rejoicing in and giving thanks for the incomprehensible Love of God that is expressed in the birth of Jesus. The spirit of Christmas is with us always if we have the eyes to see and the hearts to notice. I believe that this year has gifted us with the ideal opportunity of being captured by the ever abiding care and presence of God.

In this beautiful part of the world, we have kept healthy and safe, for which we are grateful. We have been blessed with a successful harvest; we have lived, loved and opened our hearts and doors to those in need. Yet our hearts reach out in sorrow and compassion to those who do not have loved ones joining them for Christmas this year. We know only too well of those close to our hearts who were with us last Christmas and are not this year

May we be renewed as we celebrate Christmas; may our loving God energise us as we keep alive the message of Jesus and may we pause to reflect on God's graciousness to us.

With Fr Sijō, I join in giving thanks to each of you for the many ways you have supported our parish and local community. I would like to thank you for your kindness to me. May Christmas be a time of wonder, hope and rejoicing. And may the Christmas blessings of peace and deep joy nurture and sustain you through the New Year in a special way.

### Sr Maureen McDermott sj

*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 ongoing generosity.*