



## **Catholic News**

Christmas Message - December 2022

### **A Witness for Jesus**

“The word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory” (John 1). In this chapter Jesus is referred to using the Greek word “Logos” meaning “The word”. Verses 1-18 is a summary of Jesus’ ministry and mission on earth. The passage also explains how John the Baptist (a different John from the author of this Gospel) was sent ahead of Christ to prepare for his arrival.

So the big word for John the Baptist was ‘witness’. He would search many ways for this Jesus and knew in the end he was not himself the light others waited for, but Jesus was that. He was glad to be a witness for Jesus.

At Christmas and at all times we are called to be a witness, for Jesus as well. As Pope Francis says: “The Church is fruitful and a mother when she witnesses to Jesus Christ”. Our world needs witnesses like never before because we are witnessing to the same light that John the Baptist experienced – the light that our sometimes dark and dreary world tries to extinguish.

This light after all is a gift to the world and God’s gift of Godself during those grey and gloomy days. The clouds of darkness brought about by the challenges of COVID-19 and more recently the aggressive posture of world leaders, has dampened our outlook and perhaps has hampered our optimism. The good news of Christmas is that Jesus comes in good times and in bad.

The light that is Christ can never be overcome because it represents the values of Peace, Compassion, Justice and Love. Christ is the light that heals and like John the Baptist, we witness to God’s living word.

I wish each of you every grace and blessing this Christmas with the reassurance that all will be well because the word has become flesh and dwells among us. Because of this we have nothing to fear and everything to gain.

Peace and goodwill to all.

**MOST REV TIMOTHY J HARRIS**  
**Bishop of Townsville**