



4 December 2024

Christmas Message

As we lurch from one crisis to another yet again, let us always be attentive to the part we play within our own circumstances and context as followers of the Light. Whilst the messiah that we welcome at Christmas is the One true light, we embrace Him as individuals who are called to also shine for all the world to see. Every one of our words and actions need to reflect this true light however imperfectly, for our name is 'Christian'. Anything less will give us cause to change our name to something else. Our baptism has of course permanently claimed us for Christ and with the Grace of the Holy Spirit we journey to the Father.

Today is born a saviour and He is Christ the Lord. Later he will sacrifice Himself 'in order to set us free from all wickedness'. With this freedom now comes responsibility to help spread the news of great joy to all. This is the best Christmas gift we can receive, so I pray that we will courageously and intentionally reject darkness in all its forms and become fellow travellers on the journey by singing with the angel: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy His favour.'

I wish you every peace and blessing this Christmas.

MOST REV TIMOTHY J HARRIS
Bishop of Townsville