

## **Pastor's Christmas Message**

### **O Holy Night...The Stars are brightly shining**

**My first Christmas was a difficult one.** Edmonton cold almost killed me. I almost lost my ears. I remembered seeing the snow flakes for the first time. It felt like a wonderful world. In the midst of the challenges of first Christmas - without family, lonely, I felt something of the love of God in snow. The snow flakes were all in different shapes and sizes.

**The truth is: we all have hard lives; Christmas is the celebration of God dwelling with us in the midst of it all.** As the snow flakes are different, so we are: unique, irrepeatable, filled with the goodness, love and beauty of God, and with our own unique challenges.

**In the midst of it all: war, grief, brokenness, illness, the bells of Christmas still ring. This man spoke about what happened to him one Christmas.** *It was a difficult time in his life. He was doing dishes and suddenly he hears the Church bells. He remembers the Church bells that used to ring in his childhood Church. Finished the dishes, and off left for Christmas midnight Mass. That night became a holy night: a new beginning as he rediscovered the God of his childhood years.*

**As the bells ring, as we follow the star, let us meet the Christ Child in a manger, with all of our lives: O Come Let us Adore Him. Jesus says: "I stand at the door of your heart knocking, if you open the door, I will come in and have supper with you" (Revelation 3:20)**

**Bishop Bittman in his Christmas letter wrote:** *"Every Christmas, we read about the star that led the three Wise Men to Jesus. In the times past and even today, stars serve as beacons to guide people on their way. In a world where it is becoming more and more difficult to navigate, we need to remember that we have Jesus, The Star' God sent us, to help guide and steer us on our life journey. May Jesus, our 'Star,' shine brightly in your hearts and in your lives, not only to guide you, but also so that you too will be stars for others, especially for those who have lost their way"*

**My prayer is that at Christmas Mass, especially at Holy Communion, we will experience deeply the love of the Father for us personally. See how much love the Father has for us that He sent us His Son, Jesus (John 3:16)**

**Christmas is a time of joy, love, hope, faith and peace. From my heart to yours; from my family to yours: May you experience the joy, love, hope, faith and peace that Jesus brings.**

Maybe it is a difficult season for you. Know that we will be praying for you and family at the Christmas Masses. Please pray for me, too, and for Fr. Biju.

God is not dead, He does not sleep, He is near and He loves you. **I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.**

Fr. Obi

Fr.Biju's Christmas Message :

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

My dear Parishioners, we are celebrating the nativity of the Son of God, our Redeemer.

Jesus was born in a small town, in poor conditions, in seclusion. He could be seen by those who were humble of heart and those who responded to God's promptings. God gave them the unspeakable grace to see his Son with their own eyes. Jesus also comes to us today in simplicity. He is looking for a lowly, humble heart in which he can make his dwelling. Therefore, let us prepare a home for the child Jesus in our hearts. Let us reject all that is unworthy of God, and let us call him to us with a righteous life, like Mary and Joseph did. Let us join the song of the angels and sing glory to God in the highest and bring peace among people on earth!

With his birth, Jesus mysteriously united heaven and earth. Thus, a wonderful exchange of the heavenly and the earthly took place. He took our mortal body in order to give us heavenly incorruptibility through it. This is the source of our Christmas joy. As we give gifts to each other this Christmas, may our hearts reflect on that wonderful exchange, on that great Gift, on the Son of God, who became Emmanuel – God is With Us.

I wish that Christmas may bring an abundance of joy and God's grace to all parishioners, and people of good will, that you may celebrate it in peace and with your loved ones!

And I wish you a grace filled Merry Christmas and Prosperous New year.

Fr. Biju Cmi