



BISHOP CROSBY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Fear not for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke, chapter 2

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of familiarity. We sing familiar songs, share familiar greetings, we pray and gather and celebrate in all those ways to which we are accustomed. Yet does this familiarity numb us to the awe-inspiring reality of the Lord's Nativity? Look into the Christmas creche: what do we see here? The King of the Universe – lying helpless in a manger. The Lord God Almighty – wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Eternal Word – an infant, unable to speak!

The Creator of Heaven and Earth is held in the arms of one he has created, and upon opening his eyes looks up at his mother – and so looks up at each of us. God so loves us that he comes to us, he lowers himself for us, he refuses to be distanced from us and so becomes one of us – taking on the frailty of the human form yet losing nothing of the greatness of his Divine power.

May we never grow tired of discovering anew these jarring truths, which turn upside-down our expectations of power, greatness, kingship, and so much else. May we renew with fervour our adoration of the God who has become a child, who for love of each one of us has inserted his very self into our human story. This is the blessing of Christmas – may we fill our hearts during these holy days.

*May God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the early and heavenly realm,
Fill you with the gift of this peace and favour
And make you sharers with the Church of heaven!
(From the solemn blessing of midnight Mass)*

+**Douglas Crosby**, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton



Nativity Scene, Gerrit van Honthorst(1590-1656)

FR. EMMANUEL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
At Christmas All Roads Lead Home

Christmas is a celebration of and for the family. At this time, the road is busy and so is the airport as people hurry to find their way back home to celebrate with family and friends. The importance of the home and family is underlined at this time since Christ, who is the reason for the season, left his home in heaven to come as a little child into the human family of Mary and Joseph.

As we reflect on this mystery of the incarnation in which Christ took our nature and made his home with us, let us ask ourselves, in what ways can we also make our home with Christ? We can make our home with him by being Christ-like in our words and deeds. As we share our beautiful family time this period, let us be mindful of the homeless, the sick, those who mourn a loved one and the needy. It is for us all, especially those at the margins of society, that Christ left his home above to take abode with us here below.

Moreover, as we rejoice at this time, let us key into our diocesan project, "Come Home for Christmas" by inviting our families and friends to come worship with us, not only during Christmas but also all through the year. To that end, I sincerely thank everyone in our parish family of St. Mary, Elora and St. Martin of Tours, Drayton, for supporting and helping to build our community of faith throughout this passing year. As we celebrate Christmas, we remember and pray God to be merciful to our beloved parishioners who were called to the eternal home during the year and that God may console their families.

It is my prayer that the coming of Christ this Christmas will bring peace to our world, progress to our lives and joy to our homes. As all roads lead home at Christmas, may we also be led to Christ by our way of life and may we always find our way to Him through his Church (Ps. 122:1). Merry Christmas and Happy new year, 2023!

- Fr. Emmanuel Olusola



Prince of Peace Abbey, Stained Glass, Oceanside, California

Mass Schedule	
The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	
December 31	St. Mary's 5pm
January 1	St. Martin's 9am St. Mary's 11am