



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### 18 DECEMBER 2020

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We are all relieved that 2020 is coming to an end. This year has been a year marked by fires, floods and the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone has suffered as a consequence of these disasters. Members of our communities have suffered isolation, mental health issues and perhaps domestic violence. It has been a year in which the practice of our faith has been restricted, and perhaps we have wondered where God is.

In a strange way, this is a time which cries out to God, "we need you Lord, please come to us". In such times, God desires to come into the world so as to be with us and share our suffering and despair. God wants to come to us, and this is what Christmas is about. At Christmas we celebrate God coming into the world. Jesus is born and God lives with us, sharing our lives. Jesus is born and lives with us. The more we long for God, the more God wants to be with us. The message of Christmas gives real hope in difficulty.

We don't simply celebrate the birth of Jesus more than 2,000 years ago. Christmas invites us to look into our souls. In the midst of all that 2020 has brought, if we take a moment of silence and enter ourselves in prayer, we will find that the Son of God, born on that first Christmas, is indeed alive within our hearts. Our hope is already within us.

This Christmas, let's not focus on the troubles of 2020, rather let's look within and experience the love of Christ which is deep within us.

I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

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***Bishop Greg Homeming OCD***