



*Remain in my love
Jn 15:9*

12 December 2022

Christmas Message 2022

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of end-of-year school functions. For many young people their school days are now over, but their education continues. In listening to the speeches of many school leavers, I have been heartily impressed by the maturity of those young women and men. Our community will surely be the better with their participation.

As the year draws to a close, we look both backwards and forwards. Globally it has been a very mixed year. We can see how fortunate we are when we consider many of the problems around the world, for example: the war and conflict in the Ukraine, famine in parts of Africa, earthquakes, repetitive and continuing floods in many parts of Australia.

In our preparations for Christmas, also reach out and offer some support to those less fortunate than ourselves. A Christmas gift, some financial support to people in need can be a meaningful and worthwhile act of charity that goes a long way. Donations to Caritas www.caritas.org.au, Vinnies www.vinnies.org.au, or some other charity of your choice can help bring the peace and joy of a home to some of these people in this season of hope.

In all our rush and bustle, try to leave some time for relaxation and reflection. Perhaps we could turn off all our gadgets even for a short time and truly listen to each other.

May we travel safely on our roads and be patient with other drivers. Let us all show respect to others who may hold different beliefs or make different choices in life. Let us value the dignity and life of each person.

May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you and your loved ones now and throughout the coming year. I wish you a very happy Christmas!

Yours sincerely,

Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba

PO Box 756, Toowoomba Qld 4350

Tel: (+61 7) 4632 4277 • Fax: (+61 7) 4639 2251 • Email: bishop@twb.catholic.org.au • www.twb.catholic.org.au