



CHRISTMAS 2025

I greet you as we arrive at this blessed time of Christmas. Sadly, we come to these days of happiness with a heavy darkness over our nation following the Bondi shootings and the death of so many innocent people. We are left bewildered as to why such hatred should be rained down upon the Jewish people seeking to celebrate one of their religious festivals. We say, loudly and with the strongest conviction, that we will not tolerate antisemitism as it erodes the right to freedom of religion and its practice. More so, it undermines the basic rights of people to be able to live in our Country without persecution. To know that everyone's dignity is respected and that we should be able to live safely, with our basic human rights protected.

To all who are suffering at this time of joy, we stand with you and share your pain. As a community where prayer is at the centre of our lives, we assure you that we are praying for you, especially when we gather for Christmas Mass. May our gracious God help to ease the burden of those suffering in any way.

So, what does the celebration of Christmas say to us this year in the light of this tragedy? What do we recall at a time like this?

We have celebrated this year a Jubilee Year of Hope. However, we ask, where is there hope now, especially since we always see Christmas as a season of hope? Hope is more than feeling optimistic. I believe it wells up inside of us because of our relations with the Almighty. Our friendship with God mirrors something of the hope we have in our families and friends. Those relationships bring comfort, encouragement, and the assurance that we are loved and not alone. Our relationship with God brings these and so much more. For us, hope springs up from inside of us when we realise that there is always another way of looking at the realities of life, especially the difficult, painful and challenging times.

The Babe of Bethlehem, God with us, assures us that nothing will ever stop the love of God being poured into our hearts. This is our hope and it is what we share with all who suffer at this confronting time. Hope springs eternal, and it was made possible by the One, Jesus, who is in truth, the hope of humanity.

This Christmas we recognise the affection we have for the Jewish people, because our Christian traditions have been born from the lived faith experiences of Judaism. For this we are thankful as we offer our respect, prayers, and the hope that the fullness of peace will eventually dwell in our Land.

I greet each one of you and your loved ones with the peace that was born in a stable, that created a new light that will forever blaze upon the face of the earth, dispelling all darkness. This is Jesus Christ, our hope!

Happy Christmas.

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