

CHRISTMAS 2016

My friends, Christmas is a magical time isn't it.

Do you feel that magic tonight, the magic that brings us together to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

The magic that unites us all together, as a Christian family.

That unites our own families, that heals hurts, and brings peace and reconciliation/

Christmas is a season of joy and thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving for all the love and blessings that Jesus has brought into our lives.

The crib over here is an example of the love, the love of the holy family that can guide and direct our lives.

The love that unites us tonight with the millions of Christians throughout the world, whether in large countries or the smallest islands in the middle of vast oceans. With Christian minorities suffering oppression particularly in the holy land, Syria and other areas in the middle east and Africa. Together with them we are a united loving and caring Christian family.

Tonight we are all celebrating the magic of Gods presence among us and we give thanks for the great gift and mystery that makes God, Emmanuel, one with us in the flesh.

Jesus birth at Bethlehem has given us a new hope, a new dignity and a new destiny.

Christmas more than ever is a festival of peace. Peace is the special gift that Jesus brings by his birth.

A great tradition at Christmas is the exchange of gifts. Behind this tradition is the emphasis of love. We give gifts as an expression of that love. The value is not important but the feeling is. We give things, material gifts but the greatest gift ever given is the gift that God gave us in his own beloved son Jesus.

The only adequate response to this gift is the gift of ourselves.

The gift of ourselves to God can only be expressed in terms of our love, compassion, our sharing of our resources and the sharing of our energy and talents. In this way we contribute to the building up of Gods kingdom on earth.

Let us make this our gift to God this Christmas.

The light that came into the world some 2000 years ago still burns brightly. Our task is to keep that light burning brightly in our lives and to let it shine on others around us.

We celebrate with joy on this holy night, the gift of Christmas peace in our hearts, in our homes, in our families.

May the peace of Christ remain in our hearts always, and may Almighty God bless us all with a happy and holy Christmas.