

Take heart,
all who put your
hope
in the *Lord*.

PSALM 31:24

BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024





On this Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord—the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ—I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas! **As we gather to worship and adore him, may we also grow in love for one another, united by our shared faith in Jesus** (cf. Ep 4:1–6). We are God’s beloved children, brothers and sisters in Christ (cf. Ep 2:19). May we come to know ever more deeply that we belong and each of us has a place in the family of the Church.

In his message for the *Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope*, the Holy Father declares, “Hope does not disappoint!” (Rm 5:5). Echoing his words, **I encourage you: “Be brave, take heart, all who put your hope in the Lord”** (Ps 31:24). The opening of the Holy Doors of St Peter’s Basilica reminds us that, in Jesus, God has made a way for us. Despair and doubt do not have the final word! **As pilgrims of hope, we can walk this path joyfully, knowing that Jesus walks with us.**

May the hope we find in Jesus help us to see the gifts we have been given and respond generously to those around us whose hope has been dimmed by life’s difficulties. Our light of hope grows as we share it, so let us put our light “on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light!” (Lk 8:16b). Have a happy, holy, and hope-filled Christmas.

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SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 2024