



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

Prot: 23300:MMsp_1102

15th December 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Christmas for many is a time of gathering family, friends and people from across our Diocese and beyond. It has become known for being close to those important to you. For those who will be travelling over this time to reach destinations, please take care in your travelling.

We sit with sadness at this time of year, where war in the world is disrupting the lives of so many people. We pray that the Prince of Peace can bring peace to the troubled parts of our world and consolation to those who have suffered the devastating effects of war.

Closer to home also we have those who have lost a loved one, or members of their community, which they will find particularly difficult at this time of year. Our Diocese suffers many natural disasters and bushfires have caused devastation to homes and property. We also have the increasing impact of cost of living and housing shortages which is forcing more people onto the streets.

In all these situations though we can look around and find people ministering and working in these areas of disruption in our lives. Their Christian presence brings joy and hope. It may be a neighbour who spends their time assisting others in the community, or just being with those who suffer, or giving someone in need a helping hand, but this really brings close that message of Christ.

To all in our Diocesan family and beyond, may we once again remember the Christ who came into our world, to be a beacon of peace, love, joy and hope. This Christmas I ask you to be that beacon to those in your community.

For all who work in our Diocesan ministries and parishes, my gratitude goes to all of you as you go about your apostolic work, bringing peace, love, joy and hope to people each and every day.

May Christ's richest blessing be with you all and your families.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McCarthy'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Rev Michael McCarthy
Bishop of Rockhampton

Bishop Michael McCarthy

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