



COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
* DIOCESE OF SYDNEY *
& AFFILIATED REGIONS
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Fr Joshua Tadros - Christmas Message 2024

6TH JANUARY 2024

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:23

Dearest fathers and blessed congregation,

On Behalf of the Board of Trustees and my weakness, we wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas, asking for the prayers of His Holiness the father of fathers our Patriarch Pope Tawadros II and the prayers of our father His Grace Bishop Daniel, praying to the Lord that He may grant them also a blessed charismas keeping them for us for many years and peaceful times.

As we celebrate the Birth in the Flesh of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ, the profound words of St. Gregory the Theologian which stir in us feelings of great joy and hope because of the great condescension which God has deigned to show toward His children " this is the feast we celebrate today, in which God comes to live with human beings, that we may journey toward God, or return—for to speak thus is more exact—that laying aside the old human being we may be clothed with the new, and that as in Adam we have died so we may live in Christ, born with Christ".

As we spend precious time this season with family and friends, let us appreciate them as God's gift to us and focus on our love for them more than we focus on the material and commercial things which our secular culture embraces.

Let us be ever mindful, in the midst of the great joy of this Feast, of the suffering people around the world, especially our brother and sisters throughout the Middle East and Africa as well as other parts of the world who are at war, and offer our prayers that our Lord, The Prince of Peace, will bring to them the peace which can only come from above.

With great love for all of you we exclaim, Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Your servant

Fr Joshua Tadros

Papal Legate and Chairperson of the Diocesan Board of Trustees for the Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions.