



## Office of the Bishop

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Christmas 2024

My dearly beloved in Christ,

As we gather this Christmas, we are reminded of the profound mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming man in the humble form of a child. This sacred Season fills our hearts with joy and hope, a light shining brightly in the darkness of our world. It serves as a powerful reminder that, even in times of uncertainty and challenge, God is with us, guiding and renewing our spirits.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we also turn our eyes toward the horizon of the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. This significant year is an invitation to embark together as pilgrims of hope on a journey of renewal, reconciliation, and revitalization in our faith communities. It is a call to deepen our relationship with Christ and one another, to embody the love and compassion that Jesus demonstrated.

In this spirit of hope, I encourage you to reflect on how you can share the light of Christ in your own lives. How can we be messengers of peace in a world often troubled by war and division? How can we extend compassion and support to those in need, particularly the marginalized and suffering? Let this Christmas Season inspire us to embody the hope we celebrate, a hope that is active, transformative, and full of promise.

Let us commit to prayer, reflection, and action throughout the coming year. May we engage in community service, foster relationships with those around us, and participate in parish activities that promote spiritual growth. Together, let us nurture a culture that echoes the message of Christmas, which is one of love, peace, and hope for a brighter future.

May this holy Season of Advent fill your hearts with peace and joy and may the light of Christ illuminate your paths. As we prepare for the Jubilee Year of Hope, I pray that you may feel God's love and be inspired to share that love within our Diocese and beyond.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a hopeful and Happy New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Wayne Joseph Kirkpatrick  
Bishop of Antigonish