**Greetings to all our Precious Parishioners of**

**St Christopher’s and St Augustine’s in the Lord Jesus.**



Christmas is one of the greatest events on earth that God has given to humanity. The Birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God-made-man, becomes the Gift of God that fits every human heart. All are invited to believe in Him and worship Him, because He is the Lord and God. He is the Saviour who had been announced by the Prophets of old.

Christmas was a time that is still with us as Christ lives on in the vulnerable, human situations of today.

As we look on baby Jesus we think of the mystery of God’s love for us. Why did God who is almighty and all-powerful become small and powerless as a baby? Quite simply, out of love for us. God became human so that we might become more like God. If Jesus had not come as a human like us, we might have had difficulty in believing that God really loved us. But now we know for sure. John the Evangelist says, “This is the revelation of God’s love for us, that God sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through him”. Let us thank God for revealing his love for us in Jesus, that he who is so big and powerful became so small and weak for us, that he became one of us, to help us be more like him, to have life through him.

As we see baby Jesus in the manger we reflect on God’s way being a way of gentleness and tenderness. God’s way is not one of violence but gentleness. As we look on baby Jesus in the manger we see that he is the answer to today’s problems. Instead of violence, in baby Jesus in the manger we see gentleness. Instead of hatred, in baby Jesus in the manger we see tenderness. Instead of selfishness, in baby Jesus in the manger we see love for us. Let us ask baby Jesus to help us to be gentle, tender and loving with those around us as he was in the manger.

Reflecting on the image of the manger, we can see the humility of the Son of God. Looking at the poverty of the crib with Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we think of the children in our country and in the world who no longer have parents. Looking at the crib, we think and pray for separated parents to reconcile in order to bring love to their children who need them. Looking at the crib, we pray for innocent children not to be harmed by anyone. Looking at the crib, we pray for all families in the world, especially in our parish, that they may live in harmony, peace, unity and love. Looking at the crib, we try to fill up our hearts with love and support for those who are in need.

Jesus in the manger gives us hope. In the darkness of our world, the light of God incardinated, Jesus Christ, has shone. The coming of Jesus in gentleness, the Saviour of the world, encourages us to hold out the hand of reconciliation, to help one another, to work for peace. We remember the message of the angels: *“Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace”*. We ask Baby Jesus to help us to be people of peace, peace in mind, peace in heart and peace in life, and to spread peace everywhere we go.

Christmas is about the lessons and messages behind the statues in the manger, about the heart of love and charity as well as the way of living our Christian life according to the model of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all who lived the real meaning of Christmas by helping those in need, by giving money and presents to the poor during Advent. You responded by the love of your heart to those who needed you. You gave very special gifts to them so they could share the meaning of Christmas with you.

With a Spirit of Joy and Peace of Christmas, I also would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all parishioners who have contributed and helped St. Christopher’s and St. Augustine’s Parish during the past year, and thank you all who assisted in making this Advent and Christmas holy and special.

May the Saviour Jesus Christ, Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph pour down God’s blessings and graces upon each parishioner of St. Christopher’s and St Augustine’s.

***May your Christmas***

***and New Year***

***be filled with***

***the Blessings, Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

**MERRY CHRISTMAS and BLESSED NEW YEAR to ALL.**

**Fr. Peter Hoang**