



Dear parishioners,

This email is to wish you a happy and holy Christmas. Despite the strange and uncertain times in which we live, it is right to celebrate and be joyful as we mark the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

The picture above is the Nativity, as depicted by Fra Angelico. In the humble stable at Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph kneel in adoration, joined by the ox and the ass behind them. Overhead, angels sing their Christmas hymn: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good will'. In the top corner, we see the shepherds, alerted by the angels' singing, who will shortly be on their way to join the little group gathered round the crib. And we too are invited to join them.

At the centre of it all lies the tiny Christ Child. Amidst the darkness, His body glows with light – for He truly IS the light, the light of the whole world. The picture reminds us that, amidst the darkness and confusion of our own times, there is no-one else who can offer us light and hope, except Christ the Lord.

So, let us adore Him, born this Christmas day: and let us be joyful, knowing that, whatever else may happen, His love for us will never waver.

With our prayers and blessing,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni