



## Christmas Message

My dear brothers and sisters,

A Blessed Christmas to you all! May you be rich in health, happiness and grace always.

As we come together as a community - a time for family and friends – it is good for us to also spend some time reflecting on the “reason for the season”. Jesus the saviour of our world was born so that we would all have new life.

The reason for the season is a phrase that I hear every year and so I want to explore it with you. What is the true meaning of Christmas? What does Christmas invoke in you? What feelings does Christmas conjure up for you? If I said these following words: charity, friendship, goodwill, kindness, love, outreach, sharing, togetherness etc. would they resonate with you? I am sure they would. So why is it at Christmas that there a reason for the season? I humbly invite you to walk the poem below with me.....

Every day is Christmas

when you have the kind of mind that stores up all the goodness and the sweetness it can find.

When you don't need an occasion to spread a bit of cheer, but just keep on a-giving, of yourself throughout the year.

Every day is Christmas,

with a daily wrapped surprise when you too see the friendship, in someone else's eyes.

When you try a little harder, and complain a little less, holding fast to all the fervour of the faith that you possess.

Every day is Christmas,

when you've found that you can be more concerned with words like "you" and less with "I" and "me".

When it's fun to do a favour, and to lend a helping hand, when being understood means less, than when you understand.

Every day is Christmas,

with a beauty deeply cast, when you find it doesn't matter, if you're first or if you're last.

When you can face your conscience, and be glad of what you are, then every day is Christmas, with a stable and a star!

So my brothers and sisters, if we have new life every day surely that is Christmas every day! Over this holy season, I especially invite you to see Christmas all around you and to share the true spirit of it with someone in need. Reach out and be that shining star in someone's life!

I wish you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year! May God continue to bless and keep you always and pour his graces and favours on you now and forever.

Be sure that each of you is in my prayers and thoughts in this holy season.

Yours

Rev Fr Nicholas