



# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

As I prepare to celebrate my first Christmas here, I do so with a great sense of gratitude for all that I have experienced since I came here last April. I have encountered a warm welcome from a vibrant community with committed people giving generously of their time and energy. There is much reason for hope. Fr. Bernardo who joined the Pastoral Area team recently, also echoes the same impressions.

It is very appropriate, especially with all the many challenges facing the world at this time, that Pope Francis has called for 2025 to be a Jubilee Year of Hope, which will be inaugurated on Christmas Eve with the opening of the Jubilee Door in St. Peter's Basilica, in Rome.

The Magi made their own pilgrimage of hope, following the star which led them to the infant Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Like them, may we each have the courage to take seriously the light of hope that shines for us. May we nourish it, celebrate it, and follow where it leads us. In the words of Patrick Kavanagh in his poem "Advent", it will bring us to "old stables where Time begins", to a stable in Bethlehem and a little child who is God. If Christmas is about anything, it is about the power of new beginnings.

May we each of us make our own journey to the crib this year, to the Christ child who comes to reawaken our hope. May each of us find the courage to embrace the new beginning He wants for us.



"And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12 )



Pastoral Area  
of Greystones  
& Kilquade

## **Extract from The Jubilee Prayer**

*May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.*

*May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.*

**AMEN**

No Christmas message would be complete without a word of thanks to all the many people who make this Pastoral Area what it is. The number of those actively involved in ministry is just shy of 500 which is but an indication of the level of involvement in this Pastoral Area. Thank you to all engaged in ministry in our Pastoral Area and to everyone whose presence and engagement makes this place a vibrant community with committed people giving generously of their time and energy.

Particular thanks to our Parish Pastoral Council, Pastoral Area Leadership Team, the Secretary and Administrative Team, Parish Safeguarding Team, Sacramental Coordinators, Baptismal Ministry, Liturgy and Communications groups, Finance Committees, all involved in Eucharistic Adoration and various Prayer Groups and Ministry, Welcome and Hospitality Ministry, Wedding Coordinator, Cemetery Angels, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Social Justice Groups, The Legion of Mary, Coordinators and Ministers of the Word and Holy Communion, and the Women of Faith Ministry.

Our Pastoral Area is blessed with beautiful music and our gratitude goes to all our choirs, musicians, and cantors. Thank you to our Technical Ministry Team who ensure we have the words to pray and sing. Thank you to the stewards, counters and collectors, those who arrange the flowers so beautifully in our churches and those who prepare and clean the churches and prepare the linens.

Thank you also to all our Pastoral Coordinators and Sacristans, along with our Altar Servers. To the team in Kilian House Family Centre, thank you for all of your hard work and coordination.

Thank you to the Chairpersons and the volunteer Board of Management members of our six Catholic schools in the Pastoral Area who give of their time and energy to support Catholic education in this community.

To all those who work quietly behind the scenes throughout the year in the Pastoral Area, we say a big thank you.

Last but not least, to all of our parishioners for your ongoing support and commitment to this Pastoral Area Community.

Let us continue to be Pilgrims of Hope on a journey together. Happy Christmas.

*Fr. Des Hayden P.P.*

Fr. Des Hayden, Parish Priest

*"Hope does not disappoint"*  
Rom 5:5

As the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness.

The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why the motto of the Jubilee is, Pilgrims of Hope.

Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee.

Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:1-2.5).

For all those pilgrims of hope who will celebrate it in their local Churches, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as "our hope" (1 Tim 1:1).

Extracts from  
"Hope does not disappoint",  
BULL OF INDICATION  
OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE  
OF THE YEAR 2025

