

Archbishop's 2024 Christmas Message

Dear People of the Archdiocese of St. John's:

***Do not be afraid; for see –
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people;
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.***

(Luke 2: 10-11)

These are the words of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds in the Gospel reading of the “Mass during the Night” on Christmas Eve: “Do not be afraid ... I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people;” This is the good news that we celebrate at Christmas and that we are called, as Christians, to share daily with our world and with all whom we meet.

It is the good news that is proclaimed in the second reading of that Mass, that :

***The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age
to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly, ...***

(Titus 2: 11-12)

It is the message of good news that should never grow old and that as “Pilgrims of Hope” Pope Francis wishes us to live and to share in this Year of Jubilee that he will inaugurate in Rome at the Basilica of St. Peter on Christmas Eve and the solemn opening of which will be celebrated in every Cathedral in the world on the Sunday December 29, 2024.

It is the Pope's wish that:

For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, (and that) ... the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth, where men and women dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.

The first Christmas was for Mary and Joseph and the shepherds “a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus”. I pray that this Christmas may be such a moment for each of us, inspiring us, throughout the Jubilee Year and always, to be “Pilgrims of Hope”, and a “leaven of authentic hope” for our world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Peter Hundt,
Archbishop of St. John's