



Christmas 2018

Christmas Greetings and Good wishes from Archbishop Kieran

“In the beginning was the word

And the word was with God

And the Word was God” (John (1:1))

Dear Parishioners and people of good will in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

As we gather together with family and friends over these days of Christmas let us not lose sight of the central message of hope and joy that comes with the birth of the infant Jesus. We believe that he is the One who brings a message of love and hope from God to our world. Amidst all our celebrations may we make time to reflect and ponder the mystery of a loving God who sent his Son as one like us – perhaps a special visit to the crib in your church with your children and grandchildren is a good way to honour his coming among us as a human being.

This past year in Ireland, in the month of August, we had the joy of welcoming Pope Francis to Ireland to celebrate with families who had gathered from around the world to participate in the World Meeting of Families. Pope Francis’ visit to Ireland highlighted the importance of family and the need to support and strengthen it as an important unit of society.

Your families are in my thoughts and prayers this Christmas. Members of our families may be far from home, and, indeed, it may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who may have died during the past year. They are always in our hearts and thoughts especially at this time of year.

This past year in the Archdiocese the “Listening Process” in parishes continued. The first phase of the process has now been completed. The material gathered is being analysed. This material will be presented to those who have participated in the first phase, during Spring of 2019. It has been a very rewarding exercise and I would like to thank sincerely those who have organised and participated in the gatherings. A special word of thanks to all those working on analysing the responses. It is still possible to participate in the Listening Process through the on-line questionnaire that can be found by visiting the Cashel and Emly web site: www.cashel-emly.ie

To all our Missionaries – women and men, lay and religious I send good wishes to you and your faith communities from your home Diocese. To the many working with aid organisations and to members of our Army and An Garda Síochána on peace-keeping missions warm greetings and good wishes to all. We, at home, thank you for your work and are proud of what you do in our name for the betterment of our brothers and sisters and the maintenance of peace in our world.

May the Christ child bring renewed hope, joy and peace to all our families.

May Emmanuel – God-With-Us, abide in our hearts throughout this coming year 2019.

Le gach dea-ghuí I gcomhair na Nollaig agus na hAthbhliana

