

# The Dean writes to you: 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021

‘For a child has been born for us; a Son is given to us.’ Isaiah 9:6

This is one of the passages which many of us know very well during Christmas Season. And although it comes to us from the Old Testament, it has been linked with Christmas birth story, and rightfully so for that evening in Bethlehem many years ago marshaled just this sort of birth- the Prince of Peace. This is what we come to celebrate during these days of wonder which also includes Christmas Day. In looking back at the many years of this wonderful season, it always warms my heart in knowing that many of us take this meaning of Christmas seriously and hold it ever so close in our daily lives of looking after each other, and sharing in joy and peace and love wherever and whenever we are able.

This year has been challenging for many of us; and not only here in our community but also nationally and internationally. The Covid-19 pandemic has rocked our planet, affecting our economic climate, destroying relationships of the loved ones. As we enter into this ‘Season of Joy’, it becomes vital that we share in as much joy as possible so that others’ possibly broken spirits become mended. It is the Christmas gift to the world and it begins with you and me. Joy spread into a sometimes joyless heart; restores ones faith in Community. It connects us in so many ways in which we will never know and becomes the building blocks of communities of faith and all other gatherings of humankind which wish to live in solidarity with the other and to enhance Jesus’s mandate of ‘LOVE ONE ANOTHER’.

One other gift which we can give to each other is blessings. Blessings are what we offer to each other and they are especially visible at this time of the year, the Christmas Season. We bless each other with gift-giving; with table fellowship where possible, with visits; with phone calls; e-mails, as we demonstrate our appreciation of others. And I must say that as Dean I am grateful to each and every one of you for keeping this Cathedral community close to your hearts even in the most difficult times that we found ourselves in and for including Lilitha and our children in your many blessings.

We also pray that we may continue to be such a presence in your lives and we together; build pathways of peace and hope in this place. My personal wish and dream for each one of you this season is that you give of yourselves where others may benefit from your dedication to build God’s common Home. It is through acts of kindness where our Cathedral and the whole world becomes truly connected and it is through the sharing of our abundance with those less fortunate where equality and justice shine through.

My love to you all and Merry Christmas!

*Dean Mzi Dyantyi*