

THE DIOCESE OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS



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The Rt. Rev'd C. Leopold Friday, B.A., M.A.

18th December, 2020.

Bishop's Christmas Message, 2020

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave birth to baby Jesus in a lowly cattle shed. It was at a time when the Hebrew people were facing several challenges in their lives. They were under Roman domination and the economic, social, political and health conditions were deteriorating and they were eagerly looking forward to better day. It was into a world filled with joy and sorrow, happiness and pain and suffering, good and evil, uprightness and sin, harmony, division and hatred and all the other vicissitudes of life, that Angel came to Mary:

28 "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37** For **nothing will be impossible with God.**" **38** Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. **(Luke 1 28-38 NRSV)**

In the gospel according to John it is presented this way:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.** (John 1:1-5 NRSV)

Christmas brings us a message of Joy, hope and peace. We are assured of God's presence and that God enters into human history to redeem and save the world. My brothers and sisters in Christ as we continue to respond to the challenges of life and especially those which we have and continue to experience this year 2020 whether, personally or collectively in our respective families or nations. Especially, the COVID-19 Pandemic, Dengue Fever, and the economic downturn which resulted along with the educational, social, emotional, spiritual and psychological impact these have had on the nations that make up our Diocese: St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and St. Lucia and beyond. Christmas reminds us that all is not lost, that in the midst of these there is Joy, Hope and Peace. For God is with us and "nothing will be impossible with God" and that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"

As we journey through these trying times may the Joy, Hope and Peace of Christmas encourage and enable us to work together to find creative ways of responding to the present challenges and to discern the ways in which God is present and working to redeem and save us.

I implore you to continue to adhere to the protocols outlined by the Ministry of Health in your respective Archdeaconries.

I leave with you these words from Holy Scripture:

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I take this opportunity on behalf of my wife Lois and three daughters Marcella, Malaika and Mikayla to wish you a Blessed and Holy Christmas and A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year

Your friend and Bishop



The Rt. Rev'd C. Leopold Friday
Bishop of the Windward Islands

1. **Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.**" (My emphasis)
2. **John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.** (My emphasis)