

Bishop Fabbro's 2022 Christmas Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have much to be thankful for this year. As we look back on the last two Christmas seasons when we had to close our churches and opened them but only with very limited capacity, we appreciate even more the gift of being able to gather in our churches and celebrate our faith together.



There is reason for joy and hope this year as we gather to celebrate Jesus' birth. He was born of the Virgin Mary, dwelt among us and gave himself for us that he might redeem us from our sins and "purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds" (Titus 2:14). Having encountered Jesus

We are thankful for Pope Francis' visit to Canada at the end of July. He came on a penitential pilgrimage to apologize to Indigenous people and help heal the intergenerational wounds suffered because of the residential schools.

We are thankful for the many listening sessions which occurred in our diocese, and which were included in the worldwide consultation for the upcoming Synod of Bishops. The pope's desire is that we become a synodal Church and that these conversations be an ongoing part of our journey, listening to one another, praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and discerning how God is calling us to move forward together.

We completed the activation of our Families of Parishes, all 31 of them. It was an enormous project that extended over several years and required vision, hard work and many sacrifices of our priests, pastoral teams, administrative staff, and parishioners. I am deeply grateful to all of you. This new model will give greater stability to our parishes as we seek to serve our people in the years ahead. Becoming a missionary Church that forms disciples of Jesus is a long-term commitment. Nevertheless, it has been encouraging to see the progress we are already making.

ourselves and experienced the joy he gives us, we strive to be a joyful people "zealous for good deeds". We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers, with those who are poor and disadvantaged and with Indigenous people on the path of healing and reconciliation.

"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). This proclamation of the angel to shepherds is the Christmas message. Our God has come to save us. His love forms us to be disciples of Jesus who go out proclaiming to the world this good news of great joy.

Bishop Dabrowski and I will be united with you especially as we celebrate the Eucharist at Christmas. We wish for you and your families the joy of the Gospel. May we know in our hearts that Jesus came to be love for us, so that we can be love for others.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

+ Ronald Fabbro, CSB

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB
Bishop of London

The Diocese of London: *being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus*