

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

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Message from the Most Reverend Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, for Christmas 2009.

If angels are around something serious is happening, all too often we forget the serious side of Christmas, not just the events of two thousand years ago but their relevance to our world today. In their message the angels were and are saying: the world is going to be changed. This was a birth which demanded death to old ways and in today's troubled, scared world there has to be that hope of changed ways. If we simply carry on as if nothing else is happening that would be hardness of heart to those who are suffering most. I believe that any form of Christmas celebration, at which let us say, the mother of a son in Afghanistan would feel out of place then something has gone very wrong. If there is in the following and keeping of these days this year giddiness, excitement without seriousness and thoughtfulness then things have gone wrong.

At a time of economic crisis families will be forced to cope with less yet deep down they know the Christmas feast is really about each other. I have no hesitation in saying this Christmas will be one of the best ever because it will set us free to recognise again that generosity of spirit deep, deep in our hearts.

At the Metropolitan Cathedral we will celebrate Midnight Mass on one of the most marvellous nights of the year. May this Christmas be blessed changing hearts and minds to bring peace with justice to our world.

Ends

December 2009