



Christmas Message to Nurses

What would we do without Christmas?

For all the grumbles about commercialisation and forced merriment, the season of Christmas brings to most of our minds fond memories of being with loved ones, sharing gifts and relaxing.

For some people though, the contrast between how Christmas “should” be and how it is actually lived is great. The recently bereaved, those fighting serious illness or loved ones unable to be together can all find Christmas a painful time.

And yet it was to bind up the wounds of hurting humanity that God entered human history by the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem two millennia ago.

Jesus Christ’s life on earth was a constant ministry of healing. In some cases, the Gospels record episodes of physical healing; elsewhere spiritual healing is dispensed through forgiveness and compassion. And that healing ministry has been continued by the Church that Christ founded down through the ages.

Following the First Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, the construction of a hospital in every Cathedral town was begun, and, ever since, the Church has worked closely in the field of healthcare by founding and supporting clinics and hospices, hospitals and health centres wherever she ministers.

And so, it is very natural and appropriate that at this time of year - in a sense the feast of God healing humanity - I should send these words of greeting and gratitude to all who work in the nursing profession.

Every time I visit a hospital I am struck by the combination of professionalism, commitment and compassion that is evidenced in the work of nurses and nursing assistants.

I esteem you and thank you for your care, which I have experienced myself on more than one occasion, and at this Christmas season, I express in my own name and that of the Catholic community of Scotland, our best wishes and support for nurses across the land.

May the great Christmas blessing of peace be with you and your loved ones and all you care for this holy season.

Yours devotedly

+Philip Tartaglia

Archbishop of Glasgow

President of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland