



DIocese of ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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Christmas, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Psalm at Mass on Christmas proclaims: “A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us!” It is this truth that fills us with joyful hope even in the midst of the darkness we experience. There is no reason to despair. The Light has conquered the darkness! Our call is to allow this Light to guide us as we strive daily to grow in holiness, faithfulness and integrity.

We are also sent forth each day to radiate the presence of Christ to others. We do so by loving all people without exception, by forgiving those who have offended us and by sacrificially and generously serving those in most need.

Each year we hear the timeless story of the three wise men who set out on a long journey with only a star to guide their way. What tremendous trust they must have had in God, not to know where they were going, but to obey humbly and do as they were asked. What a powerful witness for each of us. May we follow God’s call in our life with trust and obedience, so that at the end of our journey here on earth, we may embrace Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings.

It is my hope and prayer that during this Christmas season and into the New Year, we place our relationship with the Lord as our highest priority and remain instruments of His peace, joy and light in our parishes, homes, workplaces and communities.

The Lord is born for us! May He fill you with abundant blessings this Christmas and always. Merry Christmas to one and all!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington