



† Archbishop Makarios of Australia

Protocol No.: 2617

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA
2022 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Most people who refer to the feast of Christmas, focus their attention on the fact that God became human in order to make us God. The Birth of Christ, however, brings to our thinking another reality. Not only is the human person called to a return and to repentance, but God's return to the world is also signalled.

On the occasion of today's beautiful day of His Birth, let us accept the return of Christ into the world and into our lives. Our Christian faith is not an ideology, a cultural phenomenon or a simple element of our national identity that is not based on the presence of the new-Born, Crucified and Resurrected Christ. Let us not fall into the trap of this world which has created religions full of ideas and cultural elements but devoid of the presence of God. We have a living faith and a living God. We want God in our lives; He is the One whom we desire; He is the One in whom we believe; and He is the One in whom we have placed our hope.

If, therefore, we experience trials, if we have sorrows and difficulties, let us believe in the power of Christ which is incalculable. And let us not go seeking for happiness by knocking on wrong doors and leaning on the wrong people. Let us believe in Christ; let us allow Him to dwell in our hearts. And then we and Christ together, alone, will realise the great miracle of change in our lives.

Wishing all a blessed and joyous Nativity, I remain,



In Sydney, on the 18th day of December 2022

Prayerfully yours,

† Archbishop MAKARIOS

Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia