

CHANCERY NOTICE

CHRISTMAS 2025

The people of Hong Kong are still mourning the recent fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po. So can we celebrate Christmas with joy and hope? The answer is yes, because what Christmas celebrates is the Incarnation of Christ, the Son of God and the Saviour of Mankind, whose name is “*Emmanuel*,” meaning “*God-with-us*” (cf. Mt 1:23).

As the victims of the Wang Fuk Court fire embark on their journey of healing and rebuilding their homes, Christmas reminds us that whatever might be the circumstances, God is always with us. His light remains shining, and His love never fades. The Good News of Christmas gives us strength, hope, and courage to smile again.

This year, Cardinal Stephen Chow, S.J., invites the faithful to welcome the Birth of Christ in a warmer, more encouraging and more joyful way, allowing His Coming to become a true Light that brightens up our city.

Below are some suggestions for a more joyful and uplifting Christmas:

1. *Celebrate gently, and find smiles in your celebrations*

- Keep Christmas activities simple, but add light-hearted and joyful elements, such as warm carolling, sharing joyful stories, or short plays by children.
- Let prayers for our deceased brothers and sisters be followed by a “moment of hope” to share gratitude, support, and small joys together.

2. *Make “God-with-us” the source of our joy*

- Christmas cards can include not only intercessions, but also blessings, gratitude, and joy—turning the Christmas tree into a “Tree of Joyful Wishes.”
- Parish gathering spaces may add soft lighting and Christmas music to create a warm and comforting atmosphere.

3. *Kindle hope in sorrow, and rediscover joy through hope*

- After the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, add an uplifting prayer of thanksgiving to acknowledge every act of mutual help and love.
- At Christmas lighting ceremonies, include a moment for everyone to sing a lively Christmas hymn together, symbolizing the rekindling of light and joy.

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4. Share Christmas' true joy through love

- Encourage parishioners to convert a small portion of their Christmas presents into acts of charity while sharing “little gifts of joy”, such as hand-drawn cards, homemade treats, or warm messages.
- Gestures in remembrance of the fire victims need not be exaggerated—a warm drink, a sincere blessing, or a smile can all be angelic Christmas actions.

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May God bless our city abundantly with His peace, love, and joy.

May the Birth of Christ be the gentlest and brightest Light that cheers up our hearts.

Let us learn to smile again this Christmas, supporting one another and welcoming a brighter New Year with Hope.

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Given at the Chancery Office,

15 December 2025.



Lawrence

Rev. Lawrence LEE
Chancellor