



## *Church of Ireland United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough*

**Church of Ireland House  
Church Avenue  
Rathmines  
Dublin 6**

***The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson  
Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough  
Primate of Ireland and Metropolitan***

*Tel: 00353 1 4125663  
[archbishop@dublin.anglican.org](mailto:archbishop@dublin.anglican.org)*

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Friends

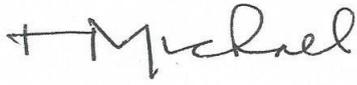
Christmas is now upon us. It has been a very long year and probably, like me, in the month of April or May you wondered if we would ever reach this point when 2020 would begin to turn to 2021. We have all been through a lot. Some of us have been through a lot more than others. Our shared experience has been something none of us could ever have predicted. It has been a script that none of us could ever have written. Both bad and good things have happened in all aspects of life today. There has been more fear and sorrow than laughter and joy.

But – Christmas is now upon us. I want to wish you a Happy Christmas. I want you to enjoy this Christmas, however different it is from any Christmas you have previously known. I want to thank all of you for keeping going, for doing the regular things well and for doing the extra things well. With good grace and willing hearts, clergy and people right across the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough have moved quickly to adapt and also to develop new ways of giving voice to the life of the community of which you are part. On all of this substantial achievement, in its variety and in its compassion, I wish to thank you. You have had to cope with a very sudden closure of churches, then a re-opening and then a renewed closure and another re-opening, all in accordance with Public Health Guidelines. In all of this, you have been very patient and extremely careful – careful of others and of yourselves – making yourselves ready for all eventualities. You have kept the life of the church and its churches going. In so many ways, this time, while unimaginable in itself, has also given us a new sense of appreciation for the church we love and the church to which we belong. Never again will we take it for granted. And we have also seen the church come to meet us in new ways. Once again, I want to thank everyone for this magnificent individual and group effort aided and assisted by the staff in The Diocesan Office.

We are not there yet. We are asked constantly to be vigilant and constantly to avoid unnecessary movement and contacts with other people. We continue to rely heavily on those who form the front line, as that front line keeps expanding and deepening. Healthcare workers, retail workers, everyone associated with teaching and learning, all those associated with the production of food, everyone involved in transport and security – the list is only beginning. I also want to include in this list you who have sustained the life of your households throughout this time.

But – Christmas is now upon us. I shall not delay you further but shall say simply: Happy Christmas to everyone.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background. A horizontal line is drawn below the signature, extending from the left side of the signature towards the right.

+Michael

*Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of peace.*  
Isaiah 9.6