

LAMBETH PALACE, LONDON, S.E. 1

CHRISTMAS 1970

Your Beatitude,

Beloved Brother in Christ

As once again Christian people prepare to celebrate with thanksgiving the birth of the Saviour of mankind they rejoice to greet one another in the words of the angelic host: "Peace on earth to men of good will" (St. Luke II, v. 14).

In a world torn with strife, wherein the passions of men appear to obscure the order of God, these words bring to us great hope and comfort. They tell us what is God's will for His creation and we know that, even though for a time the sins of man impede the divine will, yet the triumph of God's will for His world is assured.

The story of the Incarnation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shows us how that will may be done and how we may bear our own part in its fulfilment. It is by the simple act of obedience: Mary the simple maiden became the very Bearer of God because she obeyed: the Shepherds obeyed and became the first to greet the infant Jesus: the Wise men obeyed and brought the offerings of their worship.

We, too, my dear Brother in Christ, would seek once more at this holy season, to pledge our obedience to the Almighty Word who was made flesh that we will be saved. Our prayer, therefore, is joined to that of the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and to the prayers of all the Saints, that God will pour upon you this Christmastide the abundance of His blessing, together with all the clergy and faithful people committed to your charge.

With fraternal love and greetings, I am,

Your loving Brother in Christ,

MICHAEL

Archbishop of Canterbury

Primate of All England and Metropolitan

His Beatitude Yeghishé Dardarian  
Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem  
P. O. B. 14001  
Jerusalem

