

Dear friends

I find myself this week becoming increasingly aggravated by the constant barrage of statements about Christmas being ruined because of supply chain difficulties. It seems that any reason to spread doom and gloom is acceptable to the media and our politicians.

As Christians, we know that Christmas cannot be ruined by anything man made! The joy of Christmas is in its meaning, not in its excesses. But I wonder whether we should be addressing the 'tsunami' of materialism and commercialism with a little more vigour? We are, after all, the ones who are charged with Christ's message now, and we are the ones who need to take on the responsibility of spreading that message.

Mark 15:16 tells us ' And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.' (There are of course, other verses I could have focussed on, but this one seems wholly appropriate as we approach COP26.) It would be very easy to fall into the trap of worrying about our Christmas turkey, or whether the gifts under the tree are the ones the children wanted, or whether we should start preparing earlier. As Christians, we prepare for Christmas at the right time, throughout Advent, safe in the knowledge that we will be ready to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world at the right time.

So this week, I wish you a week not only of good health and happiness, but one in which you are inspired to counteract the doom and gloom being spread about the incarnation of Christ in order that you may truly be the disciple of your destiny.

A prayer for positivity:

Lord, your love never fails. Bring peace into the lives of our families, friends and those who need it. Calm their spirits as they sail through the current economic storm. Allow your joy and happiness to infiltrate their hearts and minds that they can look on the coming months in a positive and happy manner. And let us be the instruments that enable them to turn to you in their difficult situation. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Blessings,
Linda