



**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**  
**CONSUL GENERAL TRUDY DEANS**  
**CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAMAICA, NEW YORK**

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On behalf of myself and the staff of the Consulate General, New York, I send Christmas Greetings to the Jamaican community in New York, the tristate area, and the 33 states that fall under our responsibility which include Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

Christmas is the most precious gift given to mankind. Wrapped in this package is the gift of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, whose birth and death has made a perpetual impression on those who believe in the Christmas story, as well as those who do not. Let us, however, pause to remember his purpose and each year to merrily celebrate the memory of his coming.

Since taking up responsibility for the office of Consul General in October, I have had the opportunity to engage Jamaican visitors and members of the diaspora and form an impression of the love of country that exists in the diaspora, the service requirements of our visitors, and to safeguard the interest of the Jamaican community. My experienced staff and I welcome the challenge of channeling diaspora interest for the good of our country and to serve and give the required care to those in need of protection.

I know that many of us living overseas yearn to be home to share the joyous interactions that are typical of the celebration of Christmas in Jamaica. However, for those of us who can't, let us try to recreate the Jamaican spirit as much as we can, wherever we are celebrating the holiday season.

Once again, I urge every one of us in our celebration of the holiday to remember the true meaning of Christmas, and the hope, that the birth of the Christ child brought to a troubled world. Enjoy your holidays as much as is possible, of course, with relatives and friends but at the same time exercise the care and moderation which will keep you safe and well to meet the challenges of the New Year. Merry Christmas everyone!