

Diocesan Church House,

George Street, Sydney.

21st December, 1939.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

I have been requested by the Minister for Transport, Lt.Col. M.F. Bruxner, as President of the Road Safety Council, to ask for your support in the effort being made to prevent road accident fatalities during the Christmas holidays. It was considered that a brief statement in Church during the time allotted for announcements on Sunday next would be helpful in inducing citizens to be careful when on the roads, and the following statement is sent for this purpose -

"During the last few months a serious situation has been created by the number of road accidents which have occurred in Sydney and the Road Safety Council fears that during the Christmas and New Year holidays there may be a repetition of the terrible tragedies that were reported during the last holiday season when 31 persons were killed and 405 were injured in road accidents.

It is desired that the people should do their utmost to avoid causing accidents, however unintentionally, during the holidays and I wish particularly to beseech the parents to take every precaution to protect their children and, as far as possible, to keep them off the roads.

Most of last Christmas holiday accidents were caused by human failure. They were not wilful but carelessness and recklessness were behind most of them. Such things as intoxication, inattentive driving, reckless speeding and general carelessness by motorists, pedestrians and cyclists led to the loss of many lives, some of them breadwinners, some of them loved wives and mothers, a number of them children.

In the hope that this unnecessary sorrow and anguish will be spared families in our midst and that all of us will be able to celebrate Christmas in an atmosphere of sanctity and happiness I make this appeal to all of my people to co-operate with the authorities in the strenuous efforts being made to protect everyone from the horrors of road accidents".

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,

HOWARD SYDNEY.