

# First Minister's Christmas message

## A message before Christmas from the First Minister.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

"And I want to start by thanking the many people across Scotland for whom Christmas Day will not be a holiday at all.

"That of course includes our armed forces, our emergency services, and so many other vital services.

"And of course for many people working in care homes, and in our National Health Service, Christmas will be another working day, at the end of another incredibly hard year. So thank you.

"I also want to say a special thank you to the thousands of people, who have been involved in the remarkable vaccination effort in recent weeks. I know that many of you are working right up until Christmas Eve, and will start up again straight after Boxing Day for the run up to new year.

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"The vaccination programme has been a source of brightness during a really difficult month.

"I know that, even three or four weeks ago, all of us were looking forward to a fairly normal Christmas. I am so sorry that this year's won't be quite like that.

"But for many of us, because of vaccination, it will still be more much normal than last year.

“Getting vaccinated is the most important way, although certainly not the only way, in which we can all protect each other, as we get through this next phase of the pandemic. Vaccination is above all else a demonstration of compassion for, and solidarity with, each other.

“By continuing to show compassion and solidarity, I hope we can all enjoy the best and the safest festive period possible.

“And of course I hope above all else that we can all look forward to a much brighter and better New Year.

“So thank you, to all of you for everything. And I wish all of you a very happy Christmas.”



Nicola Sturgeon joined Angus Robertson on the campaign trail in Edinburgh's New Town 20 April 2021 ©2021 The Edinburgh Reporter