

Reflection Wednesday 30th December Christmas Octave 2020

One of the great gifts of Christmas is to be reminded how many riches and blessings God has bestowed upon us. St John tells us that God's Word, Jesus, has made his home in us. While Luke indicates that, like Jesus, we, too, have been blessed with wisdom and we also live as God's favoured ones. Blessings indeed! Most of all, however, we are dedicated to God – the highest of honours. The more we reflect on life - and the pandemic has been a great help - we have come to better appreciate that friendship, togetherness, love and care, compassion and kindness, family and parish are the true treasures of life. These are the values that will take centre stage as we approach the New Year. John, once again, spells out very clearly, we will only be able to take these values with us to the next world; anything and everything material will remain behind. Now is the time to thank God for the blessings of the past year which are many despite the challenges, suffering and difficulties caused by the pandemic. The fact of not being affected by the virus is itself a great blessing. We are thankful, too, for the call to be more respectful, even reverential, to all those around us under the form of social distancing. Being reminded that the call of nature is even more urgent has been most timely. There is an argument that if we had shown better care for creation, viruses would jump from animal to man much less frequently. Better housing, better living conditions, better care for the destitute and those in need would also make it harder for the virus to spread. Nurturing each other and nurturing creation go hand in hand. We are blessed in so many ways let us be profligate in the new year with our blessings which, after all, are yet another gift of the Holy Spirit.

*Christmas is full of shiny things
that sparkle, gleam and glow;
these holiday pleasures dazzle us,
and yet, deep down, we know...
That Christmas has its special gifts,
but our year-round joy depends
on the cherished people in our lives,
our family and our friends.*

- My New Year's resolution is to procrastinate. I'll start tomorrow.
- At the beginning of the year, I made a resolution to lose 15 pounds. Only 20 more to go!
- Where can you go to practice your maths on New Year's Eve? Times Square!!