

Homily 2nd Sunday after Christmas Year C 2022

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. (Eph 1:3)

What better way to start a New Year than being blessed so generously by God!

We are greeted with the creative power of the Word and the light that gives growth to the natural world. The good news is that God always wants to give us life to the full, even in the dark and difficult, even impossible, periods of our life. Given the celebrations and Bank Holidays recently we have had more time to reflect on this New Year freshly opened to us. We all want it to be better than last year. Our challenge is how are we going to help make this happen? How are we going to introduce Jesus to people so that they will embrace him and allow him to bring light into their lives?

New Day's Lyric *Amanda Gorman*

May this be the day we come together.

Mourning, we come to mend,
withered, we come to weather,
torn, we come to tend,
battered, we come to better.

Tethered by this year of yearning,
we are learning that though we weren't ready for this,
we have been readied by it.

We steadily vow that no matter how we are weighed down,
we must always pave a way forward.

This hope is our door, our portal.
Even if we never get back to normal,
someday we can venture beyond it,
to leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
but reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.

What was plagued, we will prove pure.

Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,
those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,
where we weren't aware, we're now awake;
those moments we missed are now these moments we make,
the moments we meet,
and our hearts, once all together beaten,
now all together beat.

Come, look up with kindness yet,
for even solace can be sourced from sorrow.

We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,
but to take on tomorrow.

We heed this old spirit, in a new day's lyric,

in our hearts, we hear it:

For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne.

Be bold, sang Time this year, be bold, sang Time,

for when you honour yesterday, tomorrow you will find.

Know what we've fought need not be forgot nor for none.

It defines us, binds us as one, come over, join this day just begun.

For wherever we come together, we will forever overcome.

And may God grant you always:

a sunbeam to warm you

a moonbeam to charm you

a sheltering angel so no-one can harm you.

Laughter to cheer you

faithful friends near you

and whenever you pray

heaven to hear you.