



Feast of the Holy Family

ST. GABRIEL'S NOTES

31st December 2023



A Blessing for the New Year

By Kayleen Asbo

*As the hours of darkness begin to slowly wane from the winter sky,
So too may the fearful places of your heart unclench their grasp on your life.
As the presence of light begins to grow with greater strength with each passing day,
May your own courage blossom to open more brightly to truth and love.*

*Let this be the year that you turn off the television and silence the talk radio chatter
In order to pick up the writing pen, the paintbrush, and watch the candle slowly burn.
May this be the year that you delight in seeing how much joy you can extravagantly spread
May you discover just how much beauty you can recklessly shower upon this thirsty world.*

*May this be the year that you tune both the dusty piano in the corner and the inner listening
of your care-worn heart, so that both can play in harmony with the chorus of creation.
May you break the invisible yardstick of impossible expectation
and learn that just as you are, you are enough.*

*May this be the year that you cease trying to march to an imagined ideal
And instead, wrap your arms around the messy wonder your life really is
Hold it close. And do the tango!*

*Let this be the year you befriend your soul in its radical particularity.
Not forsaking it yet again for the bland demands and cravings of the masses.
Instead, may you elope with the wildness of your own true calling,
Marry your soul to its deepest longings and invite the hungry world to the wedding feast.*

A Big Thank You

Grateful thanks to all who made our Christmas a real Parish Family Event. It was wonderful to see the big numbers back attending again, and the weeks of preparation by so many. The Crib was - and is - really beautiful, thanks to several weeks of hard work by the Monday Maintenance Team. The Sacristans had everything very well prepared, the Cleaners had the Church spotless, and the Choirs, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers & Readers all helped to enhance our Masses in so many ways. Thank you all. *Fr.. Pat*

Happy New Year Everyone !