



# TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

Bi-monthly Catholic Magazine

December 2020—Issue 6

## TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT

**WELCOME** to the sixth edition of our bi-monthly magazine. You may contact the Healing Ministry Prayer Team on the numbers below:

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We would like to hear from anyone who needs help or would just like someone to chat to. The need to care for and support each other will, of course, continue, and we are just a phone call away.

Contributions to the magazine this month from: Deacon Dave, Maria, Trish, Margaret, Ken and Ft. Tom Gagie Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

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***“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.  
Isaiah 9:6***



**A HAPPY AND HOLY CHHRTISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR READERS**



## *A Christmas Message*

*from Father Tom*

We have all been through a very difficult year, one which we could never have imagined. Difficulties have been different for different people with isolation, loneliness, unemployment, financial difficulties, physical and mental health issues, and sadly many people have died during this time, including some of our own parishioners.

But there have been many blessings too: all the wonderful people in the NHS and in front line jobs who kept the Country going; the volunteers helping those in difficulties; our own communities where people have looked after family, watched out for neighbours, entertained each other, and kept in touch by phone and computer when nothing else was allowed. And for us, as Christians, we have also had the blessing of our faith. Many people have said ‘my faith has helped me through this’. We have had the blessings of Holy Mass on line, on tv or on the radio, Adoration, Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and various teaching and learning packages which has helped sustain us and hopefully enabled us to grow in our faith and prepare for our future.

Yes, the problem is still with us, issues still have to be resolved, but let us make this Christmas one of thanksgiving to the Lord for all the blessings He has given us, let us ensure He is at the centre of Christmas. Even through such a time of adversity, we have much to be thankful for.

I would like to take this opportunity as your Parish Priest to thank everyone in St. Mary’s Lowe House and St. Thomas of Canterbury for everything that you all do in normal times to keep things going and to reach out to our parish and wider communities in a variety of ways. We look forward to working together to take our parishes forward during and post Covid-19. I do want to say ‘thank you’ particularly for those people who have helped to ensure we have had Holy Mass (when the Government has allowed it): those who helped to get Lowe House ready in the first instance and the team of stewards who have monitored and cleaned to ensure Holy Mass could continue, and Deacon Dave for his continued support.

So, let us this Christmas season let the Christ Child be born in our hearts so we can go forward to a New Year and a New Hope in Him.

With Blessings to all of you and your families this Christmas.

**Fr. Tom ✠**

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## HOLY WATER

**Holy Water** is a Sacramental that remits venial sin, because of the blessing attached to it. Our Holy Church strongly urges its use upon her children, especially when danger threatens, such as fire, storms. sickness and other calamities.

Every Catholic home should always have a supply of Holy Water. We do not take advantage of the benefits derived from Holy Water so let us cultivate its use. Untold spiritual wealth is concentrated in a tiny drop of blessed water – *and we give it so little thought!*

Only in purgatory can one understand how ardently a poor soul longs for Holy Water. If we desire to make a host of intercessors for ourselves, let us try to realise some of their yearning and never forget them at the Holy Water font. The holy souls nearest to Heaven may need the sprinkling of only one drop to release their souls.

Because Holy Water is one of the Churches' Sacramentals, it remits venial sin. Keep your soul beautiful in God's sight by making the sign of the Cross carefully while saying: *'By this Holy Water and by Thy Precious Blood wash away all sins, O Lord'.*



### Divine Mercy Reflection 296 – A PARENT'S LOVE

Imagine the parent who loves a child with burning love. They are committed in every way to the care and well-being of their child. Their love is steady and irrevocable from the time of birth on into adulthood. Now imagine the pain in this parent's heart if at some point their child walks out on them and fully rejects their love. This loving parent will not give up but will think about their child day and night, aching inside with love, hoping to be able to receive their child back. This is but a faint image of the love of the Heart of Jesus. As a "faint image," we must realize that when we reject the love of our Lord, the wound of



love in His Heart produces the deepest suffering. But this is a suffering of love. And instead of this wound of love causing Him to reject us, it does the opposite. The more we turn from God, the deeper His wound of love, and the deeper His wound of love, the more He pours out His Mercy upon us. Never doubt for a single moment the irrevocable love God has for you. Believing in this love will give you courage to always return to our Lord (See Diary 1447).

Reflect upon the love that your parent has for you. No, it may not be perfect, and some may have experienced great hurt from a parent, but try to imagine what it would be like to have a parent who loves you with an unconditional love. The knowledge of this love would become a constant invitation to let them into your life. Reflect also on this being a faint image of the love of God for you. Do not doubt this love. Turn to it and trust in this irrevocable love of our merciful Lord.

***Lord, help me to understand Your irrevocable love. And as I understand this love, give me courage to never turn from You, but when I do, give me courage to always return to You. Your love is perfect and constant. It never fails and never gives up. Thank You, dear Lord, for loving me to this perfect degree. Help me to love You in return. Jesus, I trust in you.***

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## **A CHRISTMAS STORY**



A woman was Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of walking down row after row of toys and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the lift with her two children in hand.

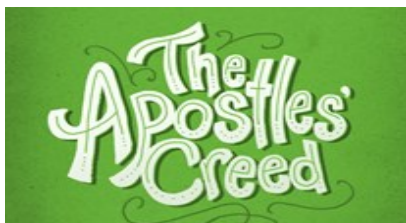
She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally, the lift doors open revealing a crowd in the car. She pushed her

way in and dragged her two kids and all her bags of stuff in with her. As the doors closed, she couldn't take it anymore and blurted out, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up, and shot."

From the back of the car, a quiet calm voice responded, "Don't worry, we've already crucified Him."

The rest of the trip down was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all would, just think how much better this world would be.



**The Creed**, or the symbol of the Apostles, which is said on the crucifix of the rosary, is a holy summary of all the Christian truths. It is a prayer that has great merit, because faith is the root, foundation and beginning of all Christian virtues, of all external virtues and of all prayers that are pleasing to God.

The first words "I believe in God" are wonderfully effective as a means of sanctifying our souls and putting the devils to rout, because these words contain the acts of the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. It was by saying these words that many saints overcame temptations, especially those against faith, hope and charity. They were also the last words of St Peter, martyr, assassinated in 1252. A heretic had cleft his head in two with a sword but he managed to trace these words in the sand with his finger.

The holy rosary contains many mysteries of Jesus and Mary and since faith is the only key which opens up these mysteries for us, we must begin the rosary by saying the Creed very devoutly and the stronger our faith the more merit our rosary will have.

'Secret of the Rosary', St. Louis de Montfort.

# **CATHOLIC DALY REFLECTION**

## **Interpreting Our Present Time**

Jesus said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west you say immediately that it is going to rain—and so it does; and when you notice that the wind is blowing from the south you say that it is going to be hot—and so it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” Luke 12:54-56

Do you know how to interpret the present time? It is important for us, as followers of Christ, to be able to look honestly at our cultures, societies and world as a whole and interpret it honestly and accurately. We need to be able to discern the goodness and the presence of God in our world and we need to also be able to identify and interpret the workings of the evil one in our present time. How well do you do that?

One of the tactics of the evil one is the use of manipulation and lies. The evil one seeks to confuse us in countless ways. These lies may come through the media, through our political leaders and, at times, even through some religious leaders. The evil one loves it when there is division and disorder of every kind.

So what do we do if we want to be able to “interpret the present time?” We must wholeheartedly commit ourselves to the Truth. We must seek Jesus above all things through prayer and allow His presence in our lives to help us sort out what is from Him and what is not.

Our societies present us with countless moral choices, so we may find ourselves being drawn here and there. We can find that our minds are challenged and, at times, find that even the most basic truths of humanity are attacked and distorted. Take, for example, abortion, euthanasia and traditional marriage. These moral teachings of our faith are continually under attack within the various cultures of our world. The very dignity of the human person and the dignity of the family as God designed it are called into question and directly challenged. Another example of confusion within our world today is the love of money. So many people are caught up in the desire for material wealth and have been drawn into the lie that this is the way to happiness. Interpreting the present times

means we see through any and every confusion of our day and age. It means we see the cultural and moral errors for what they are.

Reflect, today, upon whether or not you are willing and able to let the Holy Spirit cut through the confusion so manifestly present all around us. Are you ready to allow the Holy Spirit of Truth to penetrate your mind and lead you into all truth? Seeking the truth in our present time is the only way to survive the many errors and confusions thrown at us each day.

*‘Lord, help me to interpret the present time and to see the errors fostered all around us, as well as Your goodness manifest in so many ways. Give me courage and wisdom so that I may reject what is evil and seek that which is from You. Jesus, I trust in You’.*



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR...



A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Church every Sunday. He wrote: ‘I have gone for 30 years now and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So, I think I am wasting my time. The preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.’

This started a real controversy in the ‘Letters to the Editor’ column. Much to the delight of the Editor it went on for weeks, until someone wrote this clincher: ‘I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. For the life of me I cannot remember the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals I would be physically dead today.’

When you are down to NOTHING, God is UP to something. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment! IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

Use the **B.I.B.L.E.** – Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.



## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW WE RECEIVED HOLY COMMUNION**



The early centuries only give us fragmentary evidence of the manner in which Holy Communion was received in the Church. Communion was received in the hand but in a very reverent manner. There is evidence from the writings of various Fathers of the Church that Communion was given in the mouth as well. The Regional Council of Rouen in 878 mandated Communion in the mouth. St Cyril of Jerusalem said the fragments (of the Eucharist) are more precious than gold dust and that we should sooner lose one of our own members than lose any fragments.

There is a very heightened awareness early on of the awesomeness of the Sacrament and it is this growing sense of reverence that leads the Church over time, progressively, to restrict and finally to abolish Communion in the hand. By the beginning of the second millennium Communion in the mouth is universal for the laity and that goes along with a decrease in Communion under both kinds. That is, the host is received kneeling and, on the tongue, and the chalice is more and more reserved for the celebrating clergy.

This all changed in the 1960's and is related in a book by an Argentinian Bishop Juan Rodolfo Laise (1926-2019). In the 1960's there were priests who, unauthorised, were giving Communion in the hand and there were Bishops' Conferences agitating for it. Pope Paul VI opposed Communion in the hand very strongly. In 1968 he sent out a questionnaire to all the Bishops in the world asking them whether the traditional manner of receiving Holy Communion kneeling and on the tongue should be retained and Communion on the hand allowed. The overwhelming majority of bishops responded 'yes' we should retain the traditional manner and 'no,' Communion in the hand should not be allowed.

These results were published along with the rationale for retaining the traditional practice in a 1969 instruction called 'Memoriale Domini'

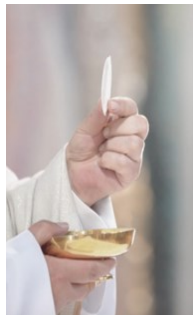
approved by Paul VI for publication by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship. However, in that same document, despite saying the traditional manner should be retained, it was acknowledged that in some places in the world holy Communion in the hand had already been introduced and in order to regulate it better, the Episcopal Conferences were allowed to permit it under certain conditions.

The condition set out in ‘Memoriale Domini’ for giving Communion in the hand states it cannot be done “if any possible lack of reverence or false ideas about the Eucharist” are being engendered in the people. It is now apparent that these are the actual consequences and John Henry Weston states “we should not be giving holy Communion in the hand anymore because the very problems that it pointed to have occurred”.

Adapted from ‘Love and Reverence Due to Our Lord’. Art. Calx Mariae, Issue 10. September 2020.

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## **HOW WE RECEIVE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT TODAY**



Our greatest treasure on earth is the Blessed Eucharist, and so we will be full of joy as churches around the world finally re-open. At the same time, we are now faced with the new and terrible challenges around how we are to worship Our Lord. Regulations, issued by some Bishops around the world, recommend that the faithful receive Holy Communion in the hand and in the most radical cases bishops have attempted to ban Holy Communion on the tongue.

These recommendations contradict Church law, obscure the reality of the Real Presence, and lead the faithful, albeit, please God, in most cases unintentionally to engage in practices lacking in reverence towards it. How can we defend the Eucharist and offer our Lord the love and reverence due to Him?

We need knowledge first of all. We need to know what we can and cannot do. The guidance issued by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales states: Communicants should approach the priest “their hands, palms upwards, one of top of the other, should be extend-

ed as flatly as possible. The communicant should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving back to their pews”.\* Liverpool Archdiocese Guidance states: “The faithful should be encouraged to receive the sacred host in the hand rather than on the tongue. Their doing this represents an act of loving charity to their community”\*\*.\*\*

In practice, most communicants are not removing their masks and are not consuming the sacred host in front of the priest but simply taking it in their hands and then, in many, if not most cases, leaving the church, leaving the Real Presence, the Body of Christ open to possible sacrilege or even abuse. The Real Presence does not change. It is not possible that what the Church has always taught about the Eucharist does not apply following coronavirus.

Receiving Holy Communion on the tongue remained the norm even after the practice of Communion in the hand was introduced in 1969, under certain conditions, despite the opposition of the overwhelming majority of bishops at the time. The Universal law of the Church states that the faithful have the right to receive Communion on the tongue and that this right cannot be denied to them. This is the Universal norm that no bishop or a bishop’s conference can overrule.

\* [www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/)

\*\* <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/coronavirus>

Adapted from ‘The Wisdom of Tradition’ Art. Calx Mariae, Issue 10. September 2020.

**Calx Mariae** is a magazine published quarterly by Voice of the Family, an international coalition of pro-life and pro family organisations. Sponsored by SPUC, with thanks to LifeSite. It seeks to contribute to the rebuilding of Christian civilization by providing features and analysis in the areas of life, family and culture. Its is £5.00 per issue or £18 per annual subscription. “It is my pleasure to recommend Voice of the Family’s Magazine Calx Mariae.” Bishop Athansius Schneider O.R.C.

# **A Christmas Poem**

**by Helen Steiner Rice**



*I have a list of folks I know,  
all written in a book  
And every year when  
Christmas comes,  
I go and take a look,*

*And that is when I realize  
that these names are a part  
Not of the book they are written in,  
but really from my heart*

*For each name stands for someone  
who has crossed my path sometime,  
And in the meeting they've become  
the rhythm in each rhyme*

*And while it sounds fantastic  
for me to make this claim,  
I really feel that I'm composed  
of each remembered name*

*And while you may not be aware  
of any special link  
Just meeting you has changed my life  
a lot more than you think*

*For once I've met somebody,  
the years cannot erase  
The memory of a pleasant word  
or of a friendly face*

*So never think my Christmas  
cards  
are just a mere routine*

*of names upon a Christmas list  
forgotten in between,*

*For when I send a Christmas card  
that is addressed to you,  
It is because you're on the list  
that I'm indebted to*

*For I am but a total  
of the many folks I've met,  
And you happen to be one of those  
I prefer not to forget*

*And whether I have known you  
for many years or few,  
In some ways you have a part  
in shaping things I do*

*And every year when Christmas  
comes,  
I realise anew,  
The best gifts life can offer  
is meeting folks like you.*

*And may the spirit of Christmas  
that forever endures  
Leave its richest blessings  
in the hearts of you and yours.*



# THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Beginning with the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1 of England in 1558, the Catholic Church and any practice of the faith was strictly forbidden. Some of the laws included: Holy Mass was outlawed. Priests were expelled from the realm or threatened with the charge of high treason and the punishment of being hung. Any Catholic harbouring a priest or allowing him to offer Holy Mass was subject to the same penalty.

Anyone appointed to a civil office had to take an oath denouncing the Pope and the belief in transubstantiation. Catholics were not allowed to vote, to hold property, to be a witness in court or have weapons. Catholic schools were closed and instruction in the faith was forbidden. These laws remained in place until 1829. However, to this day the King or Queen of the United Kingdom cannot be a Roman Catholic.

The popular Christmas song, the ‘Twelve Days of Christmas’ was written during that time, using seemingly secular images or symbols to help catechise children in the faith. The “true love” does not refer to an earthly suitor but to Almighty God. The “me” to whom the gifts are given is any baptised Catholic and the repetition emphasises God’s continual renewal of His gifts to mankind.



The ‘Partridge in a Pear Tree’ is Christ. In nature, a mother partridge will feign injury to lure predators away from her defenceless nestlings. In the same way, our Lord protects us, vulnerable human beings, from Satan. The pear tree symbolizes the salvation of mankind.

The ‘Two Turtle Doves’ represent the Old and New Testament. The ‘Three French Hens’ represent Faith, Hope and Charity as the principal theological virtues, as well as the gifts of the Magi; gold, frankincense and myrrh. The ‘Four Calling Birds’ are associated with both the four evangelists and their gospels— Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.





and the four major prophets– Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.



The ‘Five Golden Rings’ have a two-fold significance. A ring, or a circle, has no beginning or end and it reminds us of both God’s eternity– His permanent, faithful, and continuous love for us– and the circle of faith– God’s love for us, our love for Him, and our love for our neighbours. The number five also signifies the first five books of the Old Testament.



The ‘Six ‘Geese A-Laying’ represents the six days of creation described in Genesis. The ‘Seven Swans A-Swimming’ continue the Genesis theme, reminding us that God’s plan included not just the six days of creating but also the seventh day of rest; therefore, we in turn must not forget to make Sunday a holy day by worshipping God at Holy Mass. The ‘Seven Swans A-Swimming’ also refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven corporal works of mercy, the seven spiritual works of mercy, and the seven deadly sins.



The ‘Eight Maids A-milking’ represents the eight beatitudes and ‘The Nine Ladies Dancing represent the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit and the nine choirs of Angels. The ‘Ten Lords a Leaping’ represent the Ten Commandments and the ‘Eleven Pipers Piping’ represent the eleven faithful Apostles at the time of the Resurrection and Ascension.

Finally, the number twelve for the Jewish people represented completion and fullness. Therefore, the twelve drummers drumming are the twelve minor prophets, the twelve precepts of the Apostles Creed (still the structure of the first part of the Catechism), the twelve apostles (particularly the original eleven plus St. Matthias who replaced Judas), and the twelve tribes of Israel.



The (actual) twelve days of Christmas is the period that, in Christian theology, marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 and runs through to January 6, the Epiphany.

**SMILING IS  
INFECTIOUS**



**BY SPIKE  
MILLIGAN**

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled, I realised I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then I realised its worth,  
A single smile just like mine, could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.



Johnny and Matt were at a healing service last night and Johnny said "What did you think of the Service Matt?" Matt replied: "I thought it was rubbish, even the guy in the wheelchair got up and walked out!"



**KEN'S CORNER:** A duck walks into a shop and buys lipstick. She says to the cashier 'can you put it on my bill?'

I was offered a job cleaning windows – I could see myself doing that!

Two fish in a tank and one says to the other "how do you drive this thing?"



Why does Santa always enter through the chimney?  
Because it soots him.

What do you get when you mix a Christmas tree and an iPad? A pineapple!

What do you call a frog hanging from the ceiling?  
Mistletoad.



## CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE AND BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM – ENGLAND’S NAZARETH

We are very blessed in this Country with the Catholic National Shrine at Walsingham. If you check out their website, <https://www.walsingham.org.uk> you will find a wealth of resource, teaching and information there, including livestreaming of Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

During the celebration of Holy Mass this morning from St. Joseph’s at Guildford, Fr. Tony reminded us about the prophecy of St. Arsenios of Paros who said: “The Church in the British Isles will only begin to grow when she begins again to venerate her own saints.” The Walsingham website tells us: ‘England, Mary’s Dowry is known as the Island of Saints and Martyrs. England is blessed with thousands of canonised and beatified Saints and Martyrs, both known and unknown’.

In the Litany of the Saints and Martyrs of England, we invoke them all and implore their powerful intercession for the Conversion of England and for the re-evangelisation of her peoples.

Blessed Henry Heath implored: “O England, turn thyself to the Lord thy God! Jesus, Convert England! Jesus, Have Mercy on this Country!”

Perhaps we discovered a greater sense of prayer and intercession during the last months when our lives have been so dramatically changed. Let us make the most of it – let’s start venerating our own saints again! We can use the format of the Litany of the Saints and Martyrs of England. The saints are a gift to us, a mighty intercessory resource! Let us use what we are given. You can access the Litany via the link below.

[https://www.walsingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Litany\\_of\\_Saints\\_and\\_Martyrs\\_of\\_England.pdf](https://www.walsingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Litany_of_Saints_and_Martyrs_of_England.pdf)



# THE HOLY ROSARY



It is not so much the length of a prayer as the fervour with which it is said which pleases God and touches His heart. A single Hail Mary said properly is worth more than one hundred and fifty said badly. Catholics say the Rosary, either the whole fifteen mysteries or five of them, or at least a few decades. Why is it then so few of them give up their sins and make progress in virtue, if not because they are not saying them as they should.

It is a good thing to think over how we should pray if we want to please God and become more holy. Firstly, to say the holy Rosary with advantage one must be in a state of grace or at least be fully determined to give up sin, for all our theology teaches us that good works and prayers are dead works if they are done in a state of mortal sin. Therefore, they can neither be pleasing to God nor help us to obtain eternal life. As Scripture says, 'praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner'. (Ecclus 15). The praise and greeting of the angel and the very prayer of Jesus Christ are not pleasing to God when they are said by unrepentant sinners, "these people honour me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Mark 7:6).

Those who join my confraternities (says Jesus Christ), who say the Rosary every day, without any contrition for their sins, offer me lip service only, and their hearts are far from me. I have just said that a person must 'at least be fully determined to give up sin', (1) because if it were true that God only heard the prayers of those in a state of grace, it would follow that those who are in a state of serious sin should not pray at all. (2) Because they join one of Our Lady's confraternities or say the Rosary or some other prayer, without having the slightest intention of giving up sin, they join the ranks of her false devotees.

We earnestly advise everyone to say the Rosary, the virtuous that they may persevere and grow in the grace of God, the sinners, that they may rise from their sins. But God forbid that we should ever encourage a sinner to think that Our Lady will protect him with her mantle if he continues to love sin.

The learned Cardinal Hugues (1200 – 1263), tells us one should be as pure as an angel to approach the Blessed Virgin and say the Angelic Salutation. One day Our Lady showed herself to an immoral man who used to say the Rosary regularly every day. She showed him a bowl of beautiful fruit, but the bowl itself was covered with filth. The man was horrified to see this and Our Lady said to him, “This is the way you are honouring me. You are giving me beautiful roses in a dirty bowl. Do you think I can find them pleasing to me?”

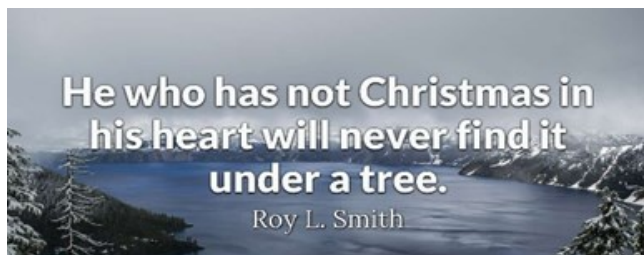
‘The Secret of the Rosary’ St. Louis de Montford

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## SOUL FOOD By Lorcan Brennan



Peace and rest now. Stop your rushing around within and without. Invite me into your actions. See how it is you seem to go ahead without me. Now though, I say to you be still and enjoy the present moment. Take each blessed moment as if a cold deep breath. Find me in everything. I know some days I seem so far away from you that my world seems shrouded in heavy weathers. Be assured. I am ever present. Open your heart afresh. Feel me enter in to sing so many new songs.





## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

A new dawn is awakening! We are children of the light; we belong to the Father through our baptism and are loved so completely by the Son who gave His life on the Cross, freeing us from the pangs of death, forgiving our sins and revealing the Kingdom of Heaven to those who believe and follow Him.

Yes, the world is suffering at the moment, BUT this gives Christians the chance to pray for all its maladies and to pray for the conversion of souls.

A renewal has begun! More and more people are searching for God as they witness the watering down of basic moral values, and Jesus encourages us to pray more and to go out and spread His Gospel of Divine Mercy.

It is our mandate, as Christians, to bring joy, love, mercy and forgiveness to those who are lost, lonely, misguided, confused and, bluntly, chasing rainbows in our consumer driven world.

Let us keep our eyes on the Lord and ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for us, strengthen our resolve and lead us all into Her Son's arms, ever open, ever waiting to smile and whisper 'welcome home'.

Our hearts must be throbbing with the Gospel message of His never-ending love and mercy. We can never be defeated; history teaches us that. Many disordered regimes have appeared and then disappeared. The Gospel message has always come through victorious because God cannot be defeated, He makes good out of evil.

So, we know now, to always follow the light of Christ, supporting and praying for each other, concentrating on the one true message of the Risen, Glorious Christ.

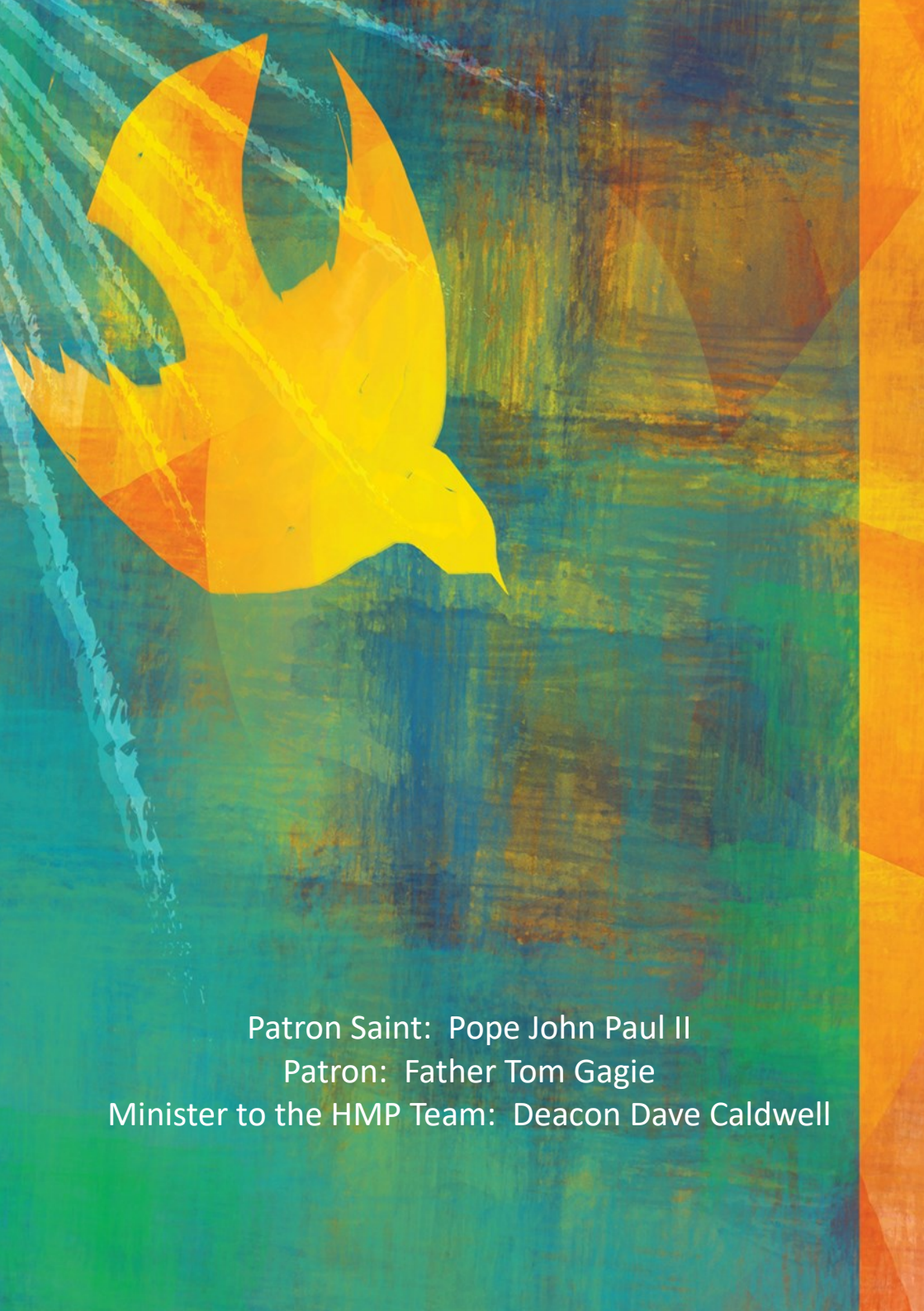
Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

**Deacon Dave ✠**

## A HAPPY AND HOLY NEW YEAR

# 2021





Patron Saint: Pope John Paul II

Patron: Father Tom Gagie

Minister to the HMP Team: Deacon Dave Caldwell