

January 1, 2025

## Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God



As we close the door on the past and step into the unknown, I pray that all of us will be built up in a spirit of Joy and Hope.

We set off into the New Year not alone but in the companionship with one another and led by Our Lord Jesus Christ, Blessed Mother Mary, our patron in the parish, and Blessed Joseph, the patron of the universal church.

Let us make the New year a time for **reflecting**. We remember times of joy and times of sadness, so engraved in our minds, that nothing will ever remove them. We offer them as our sacrifice to God.

Let us make the New Year a time for **resolving** to be better people. This is a time to press the reset button and to look to make a fresh start in all aspects of life for positive living, sanctification and salvation of our souls and over and above for the glorification of the Name of the God

Let us make the New Year a time to ensure we are **resting** in Jesus. We struggle to find rest in a chaotic and restless world and in the storms of life. The only sure and unchangeable things are the love and grace of God. Jesus gives us a promise – “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). The next chapter in our life story will be written by the ink of what we do with Jesus and by the decisions and the choices we make.

This is a year of “**Jubilee of the Pilgrims of Hope**” Let us journey together **rejoicing** in our God

I therefore invite everyone to experience the joy and strength in coming together and respond to God’s call for a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world.

*Happy New Year*

