

HOLY HOUR – JANUARY 2020
THE GIFT OF JESUS & THE NEW YEAR

Hymn : O come all ye faithful

Introduction :

I adore you O Jesus, God of Love, truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. Oh, how good it is for me to be here with you. Thank you Jesus for this precious opportunity to spend time with you. Jesus, I praise you, thank you, worship and glorify you.
(silent adoration)

We have just celebrated your birth with angels proclaiming Gloria in excelsis deo and have seen the shepherds adoring and worshipping you. Very soon we will see the wise men bringing their valuable gifts to honour you. Yet... the gift of you - **Jesus** – the babe in the manger, the Saviour of the world is the **greatest gift** to this universe and mankind. Thank you Jesus for coming to us - to love us, save us, redeem us and for being - our way, truth and life.

We are in the first week of the New Year 2020 which is also a gift to us. Jesus, we pledge this year to being close to you, and we ask you to be the light that guides us in all we say and do. (silence)

Let us now listen to a reading from the Gospel of St. John 3:16 (To be proclaimed from the Bible) - **Silence**

Reflection :

Some gifts are perfect!

During Christmas we think of all the gifts we buy for family and friends and try to find “the perfect gift”. A perfect gift must reflect the one who gives it, it must reflect the knowledge of the one who receives it i.e. knowledge of their needs and desires and the gift should be valuable as time goes on. We know God gave mankind the perfect gift when He sent His Son Jesus, who reflects God the Father. God’s gift of Jesus is the answer to our needs and desires. Jesus’ value is eternal.(silence)

Some gifts are wrapped simply!

Human nature gets attracted to gifts wrapped in shinning paper to ascertain their value. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and born in a manger and that does not diminish the ‘Kingship’ of Jesus. We are called to look beyond the outward nature of things. The birth of Jesus teaches us humility and simplicity. We must strive to imbibe these virtues which are within us since we are made in His image and likeness. (silence)

Some gifts we don’t deserve!

Jesus is the perfect Gift! Even though we don’t deserve and could never earn this gift, God freely gave Jesus to all who will receive Him. God’s love for us in Christ never fades, diminishes, or weakens. God’s love for us remains consistent and continually available. (silence)

Some gifts tell us something about the Giver!

When we plan to give gifts we think and plan carefully. God's gift of Jesus was part of the great plan of redemption. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son as our Redeemer and Saviour to lift us out from sin, and to be our Friend to whom we can go for anything and everything. Jesus is the gift that reflects the abundant love and righteousness of our God.
(silence)

Some gifts are mysterious!

Sometimes we receive gifts that are strange and difficult to understand at first but as we slowly solve the mystery they are most fulfilling. Jesus is part of the mystery of the Trinity. When we understand that Jesus is the Way to the Father and strive to follow His footsteps with the help of the Holy Spirit - we will experience fullness!

We are in the year 2020 filled with mystery and the unknown. It is a gift to us. May we seek to unfold it wisely and carefully. May we fill it with Jesus given to us as a perfect gift at Christmas.
(silence)

Hymn : Come (3) to the manger

Prayer of the Faithful :

Let us come and adore Jesus, the greatest gift, with praise and thanksgiving as we sing.

Response : O come let us adore him Christ the Lord (sung)

He was Born to bring love, peace, joy and goodwill to mankind...

He Lived to show us the way of life...

He Died for us and our sins...

He Resurrected to bring us eternal life...

He Fills us with His presence as we begin the New Year 2020...

Concluding Prayer :

Thank you Jesus our greatest gift! We promise to keep our eyes focused on you as we look forward to 2020 and strive to radiate Your love, light, joy and peace in our lives. Jesus we praise you, thank you, adore you and glorify you. Amen.

Benediction Follows

Divine Praises

Hymn : Somewhere far

*Written by Charmaine Moraes
For the
Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee*