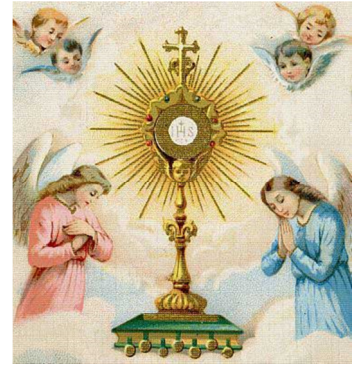




**Diocesan Commission
for Liturgy, Vasai**

**Thanksgiving
Adoration**

31st December 2020



Opening Hymn : O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament Divine

Opening Prayer

Soon we will be beginning a New Year, 2021 – a year of expectations of various kinds according to the plans of each one of us. A year that is expected to bring relief from any of the obstacles that beset us last year. However, our hearts ought to be full of gratitude, first, for the year gone by as we gather here to thank God for the gift of 2020 to all of us. Surely most of us have remained healthy, retained our jobs and unity in the family. For others, 2020 may have been a tragic and painful year, a year of losses- both financial and emotional, of broken relationships, of failure and ill health, or even loss of a loved one due to the virus infection. Whatever may have been the experience, we keep in mind Christ's supreme sacrifice of loving us so much that he gave up his life for our redemption. We accept what has transpired in our lives and we place ourselves, our families and our Communities under Jesus' care who loves us till the end.

(Silence 4 mins.)

Hymn : The Lord is near to all who call on Him,..... (389)

ACT OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE PAST YEAR

O Jesus, you are our light. You are like the Sun to us for the years that go by, during which we, his people, make one full revolution around you through the celebration of the mysteries. You are the Alpha and the Omega - the beginning and the end of all things, who always is the same and never changes, and whose years fail not. We now, at the close of another year, kneel in adoration before you, and offer you our deepest gratitude for the brotherly care with which you have watched over us during the past, for the many times you have shielded us from evils of soul and body, even in times of

grave sickness and for the numberless blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which you have showered upon us.

1. Let us call to mind all the events in our lives, and thank God for all the experiences that helped us to grow - a birth in the family, a wedding, a new house, good results- or despair like a death in the family, financial losses, soured relationships, property disputes...*(PAUSE 5 secs)*
2. Let us think of all the people we may have encountered during this year, especially new friends that we made, old relationships that we may have renewed...*(PAUSE 5 secs)*
3. Let us think of the growth in faith and increased awareness of the presence of God in our lives, or even the times when we lacked faith and felt disappointed with the turn of events that went against us ... *(PAUSE 5 secs)*
4. Let us think of new skills or talents we may have developed during this year. How have these affected our life ... *(PAUSE 5 secs)*

Let us use this opportunity to praise and thank God for the wonderful blessings of the year 2020.

Hymn : Oh, how God is the Lord, ..(3)

I will never forget what he has done for me. (306)

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-35

Narration:

During this Christmas Octave the scriptures speak of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. When the days of purification of Mary were accomplished, as per the law of Moses, the child Jesus was brought to the Temple along with the stipulated offerings. That day, Simeon, a righteous and devout man, filled with the Holy Spirit and carrying the child Jesus in his arms praised God declaring Jesus as the long awaited Messiah sent by God for all – the Jews as well as the Gentiles. He also foretells the challenges that Mary will have to face on her giving her consent to be the Mother of God.

Reflection:

Mary did not need to be purified but she followed all the laws of the faith during her time. This sense of humility is an example for all of us to follow. Jesus is not the Messiah for just the Jews deemed as the chosen ones in those days. He is the Saviour of all the people in the world for those who believe in Him. We are truly a “universal” Catholic Church.

Being selected to be the Mother of God was a glorious event but it came with its set of challenges. Mary faced all of them resolutely. In this lies a message for all of us. Being a follower of Christ can pose us many unexpected challenges both from within and without. How do we handle them? When we are afraid we can recall Jesus’ own words – “Do not fear”.

We also anticipate the 1st of January, the beginning of the New Year, dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, that, thanking her for her intercession during the past year, we may continue to truly turn to her to lead the way for us into the coming months, instilling in us the love and courage that already flows from God through her divine intercession.

(Silence 3 mins.)

One of the best gifts we have received from God is the gift of time. As we look forward to a new year, we offer this time spread through the year to God in the spirit of unity and love which St Peter speaks about in the following reading.

Scripture Reading : 1 Peter 3: 8-13

Reflection:

St. Peter speaks of the importance of being united – in mind and body, of having sympathy, love, a tender heart and a humble mind when living in our communities. We are not to be revengeful. This is the way of the world which leads to strife, dissent, hatred and disunity. No one benefits from such a strategy. But having a spirit of unity brings blessings. We are not to slander. Rather we should turn away from evil and do good. Can anyone suffer for doing good? In fact, even if one does, we would be blessed for it. For Christ willingly suffered not because he had sinned but for the sins of the whole world.

Hymn : Make me a channel of your peace..... (263)

Prayer of the faithful

As we place all our hopes, our dreams and our time at Jesus' feet

Our Response : “Blessed be the Lord, from this time on and forever more.”

1. For all the people, that during the coming year, we may experience his presence and loving care in all that we do Our Response
2. For all the families, that they may live in unity, in one mind and heart always seeking the good of the other in a spirit of love... Our Response
3. For those who are infected by the Coronavirus, that they may get the right medical attention and care and speedily recover from the infection without any lasting effects... Our Response
4. For all our relationships around us, in our dealings with people, especially of other religions, that we may live in a spirit of tolerance and respect for the faiths of each other... Our Response
5. For our personal needs ...Our Response

Hymn : Thank you Lord, for all you've done (377)

We thank you Jesus, for this hour that we have spent with you. We ask you to bless us and give us the discernment, to know your will and to accept it and carry it out in the years to come. We also ask you to put in us a spirit of generosity for those who need our help, our time and our resources, particularly in these days of the pandemic, so that we may share with the needy the gifts that you have so generously showered on us, Amen.

Silence

Hymn : Let us bow in adoration (245)