



**St. John the Evangelist Parish, Gananoque
and
St. Philomena, Howe Island**

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My Friends in Christ:

A New Year is upon us and as we say good bye to 2020, we should have hope as we enter 2021.

We begin by celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. Through her intercession with her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, we can look forward to Blessings in this New Year. Last year was a most difficult one and certainly, the first part of 2021 will be challenging as well.

However, if we place our trust in God at this time, we will benefit from doing this. God's grace will flow upon each of us. We can pray as it says in our Responsorial Psalm (Ps.67): "**May God be gracious and bless us**". We can also celebrate not just Mary being the Mother of God, but being our Mother as well.

As you all know the Province of Ontario entered into a lock down on December 26 for 28 days until January 23. This means that St. John's and St. Philomena's Parishes will be closed for the foreseeable future. As the situation improves over time, the Church will gradually reopen for Private Prayer, then a return to celebrating weekday Masses, restricted to 10 people and finally a return to Sunday Masses with reasonable capacities in place when permitted.

I would like to thank all those who assisted in our Christmas Masses. In addition, I would like to thank everyone who offered prayers for me, as well as gave me gifts over Christmas. As always, I am grateful for your generosity and I am humbled by it.

May all of you and your families receive God's Blessings in this New Year.

Prayers and Blessings in Christ,

Fr. Dale