



SAINT ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC PARISH  
УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ПАРАФІЯ СВЯТОГО АНДРІЯ Parish Priest  
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Dear Sisters in Christ!

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

The Australian Bishops have announced that, beginning on Pentecost Sunday, the whole Catholic Church in Australia will celebrate a "Year of Grace". The Bishops have chosen, as a sort of sub-heading, a phrase from Pope John Paul II's *Novo Millennio Ineunte*: "starting afresh from Christ".

So, what is this "Year of Grace"? It is listening to the wisdom of God. The Year of Grace calls us to:

- encounter Jesus Christ in prayer
- seek healing and renewal through repentance
- grow as disciples by cultivating the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that the Church in Australia will continue to be transformed by the power of Christ's resurrection.

The Bishops have emphasized the importance of prayer – praying with more focus, perhaps; praying with more stillness; spending a little more time in prayer, or praying a little more frequently; perhaps praying in a style that may be new to us. They invite us to think about these questions in many contexts – in the public celebration of our liturgies, especially of the Eucharist; in prayer forms such as Holy Hours; in times of recollection, meditation or retreat – in the classroom, the staff-room, the parish office, or for the whole parish community and, perhaps especially, in the home. Do we say "grace before meals" at home? If not, this might be the time to start, or perhaps some moments of prayer together at the end of the meal. And if we already recite a standard prayer, perhaps we might take a few seconds more, with some new additional words.

While the Year of Grace is not "event driven", there will be some liturgies and celebrations planned to take place during the twelve-month period. In these we will be encouraged, among other things, to reflect on our failures and sins as a community of believers, but also on the gifts and blessings (the "Grace") that God has given to us.

In our parish, we will begin the Year of Grace by blessing an Icon of Christ so that we may be able to focus on his face and allow ourselves to be drawn in to meet him in the Sacred Image.

Let us be open to God's Grace so that we may continue to grow in His love. May this time allow all of us to come closer and to start our lives "afresh with Christ"!

With every best wish and blessing, I remain,  
Yours in Christ our Lord

(Very Rev. Fr) Simon Ckuj  
Parish Priest