

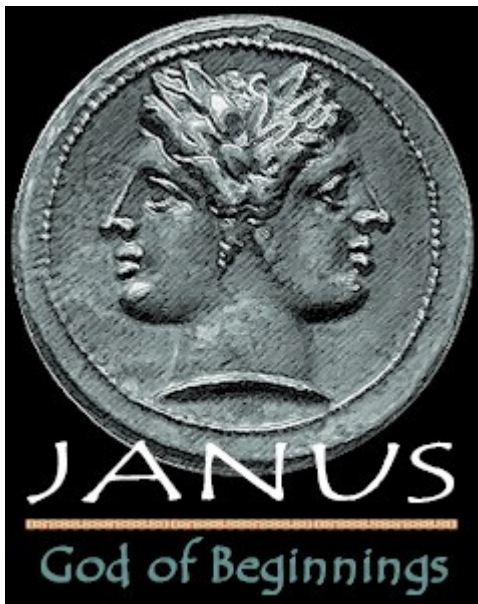
All Saints Alive

PRIEST'S VIEWPOINT

New Year – new targets, new goals, same God

Dear fellow Saints,

It is a privilege and also a great responsibility to put a few thoughts before you at the beginning of a new year. Though, as I mentioned in a sermon preached a few weeks ago, God's time and Man's time are not the same, and our church year is already nearly a month old.



As we come to January, a month named after the Roman God Janus, we do well to take stock. Janus was always portrayed as having two faces: one that looked back and one that looked forward. The Christian God likes us to do the latter rather more than the former, for, though it is good to remember past blessings, it is better to fix our eyes upon the new goals that God sets for us as we press on in life.

We remind ourselves in several of our favourite hymns of the different perspective on time that is God's view. "A thousand ages

in Thy sight are like an evening gone"; and we learn from our scripture that God is the God who is above time and in control of time – "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." And it is this sense of God's timelessness that can make sense of an otherwise senseless and unfair world. Why is it that some folk live a long and happy life whilst others die so young? Only the knowledge that this finite life is not the whole picture can restore the sense of rightness and justice that we long for.

So as we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us rejoice in the certainty that the God we worship is above and beyond time, and that he is in control from the beginning to the end of time.

At the beginning of a new year let us put our trust in him to guide us through the times that lie ahead for us, and to enable us to see the targets he sets for us and to believe that he can enable us to achieve these goals.

Every good wish to you all for the year 2007.

God Bless You,

Gerry Booker

