

## **Time**

**What is it?**

**Does it rule us or does it serve us?**

**Does it matter?**

**Time is a creation of God**

**It is a gift that has been given to mankind**

**It is how we measure great events in the world**

**The greatest being the birth of Jesus Christ**

***B C* Before Christ**

***A D Anno Domini*, the Year of the Lord**

**It is how we measure the great events in our lives**

**Birthdays and anniversaries**

**Causes for celebration and for remembering**

**9/11, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Dec 7 all have specific meaning for Americans**

**Everyone knows the meaning without attaching a specific year**

**How long we have been at a particular job**

**It is how we measure celebrations in our Church**

**Today is the last day of the Octave of Christmas**

**Also the Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

**Easter is a celebration that doesn't have a specific date**

**But is tied to the cycle of the moon**

**We see that we all mark time in one way or another**

**But how do we mark time?**

**As we begin a new year, this can be a good reflection**

**Does time control us?**

**Does it rule over us?**

**Or are we in control?**

**Does it serve us as we make our way through this life into eternity**

**Time is a gift**

**But as any of God's gifts**

**It can be used as he intended**

**Or it can be used for other purposes**

**It can help our journey through this life**

**Or it can become something we fight against tooth and nail**

**We have all been given so much time**

**We don't know how much**

**So we are always called to be prepared**

**As Christians, we do not use a flat, linear model**

**Begins here and simply moves along**

**Then it will end at some point**

**We see the cyclical nature of time**

**As it moves forward, certain things repeat**

**Not in a Ground Hogs Day the movie repetition**

**But in a repetition that is old and new at the same time**

**This is why Christmas is a 2000 plus year old celebration**

**And why it is as fresh as a baby born last week**

**Everything is like this**

**Even something as normal as a new day**

**Every morning He who is the Alpha has an invitation for us**

**An invitation to begin fresh**

**The dawn brings new hope**

**And in the evening the Omega is there**

**So we can offer thanksgiving for the small victories**

**And sorrow for the failures**

**Asking for the strength to make amends**

**And for his grace to be healed**

**Then he gives us rest**

**A taste of the sleep of death**

**Rejuvenating us for the start of a new life**

**New opportunities**

**We can do the same thing throughout the year**

**At our anniversaries**

**At our memorials**

**Doing this, time invites us into a deeper relationship with Christ**

**Trusting that he has taken our mortal enemy**

**Death**

**And turned it into a portal**

**A gateway to eternity**

**Through his resurrection, death is no more something to be feared**

**It is the end of time**

**And the beginning of eternity**

**All of us gathered here today have been given another year**

**None of us is guaranteed a seat here a year from now**

**What are we going to do with this gift?**

**Almost 2000 years ago, the Greek philosopher Seneca wrote:**

***It is not that we have so little time***

***It is that we have wasted so much of it***

**St Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians said:**

***Look carefully then how you walk***

***Not as unwise men and women,***

***But as wise, making the most of the time***

**The invitation is there**

**To live as if time really matters**

**To imitate the one who gave himself for us**

**To use this gift as a gift for others**

**Preparing for our final birth**

**May God grant to you and yours a blessed and prosperous New Year**