



Happy New Year 2022 my dear brothers and sisters of Christ the King,

I extend my warmest greetings to you and all your loved ones.

On this very special day of the year, I say a heartfelt thank you for your abundant kindness and generosity to me over the Christmas season. I have been blessed with so many cards, well wishes, gifts, hospitality but more importantly fellowship and friendship and it is this that I hold dear to my heart.

God has blessed me beyond all measure with you and so I want to thank you for your honesty and sincerity when we gather as a family every week. Together we continue to work together to make a difference to our community. I am a richer person today because of the love and care you lavish on me.

Every week I am asked what will be the message this Sunday and to be honest sometimes I do not know but my inspiration always comes at the right time.

This new year week, I would like to share a story with you about wealth and it reads:

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

"We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

"We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

My dear brothers and sisters, this new year I invite you to reflect on the theme of prosperity. Prosperity not in the sense of money or materialistic wealth but something far more tangible. You see, love, unity, care, and satisfaction is richer than any comfort money gives or can buy. When you take a moment to see what you have and value what you have, you are wealthy already.

If you have parents that are alive, if you have siblings, if you have a job, if you have food on your plate, if you have a phone, if you have water, if you have clothes, if you have shoes, if you have a friend to confide in, and if you have a bed to sleep in at night then you are already prosperous! See the wealth you already have. Share what you have with others because when you do, you give love and help others prosper too and that my dear friends is truly living the Gospel.

So let us positively embrace the importance of letting go of anything that does not move us forward and look at this new year with a fresh pair of eyes. Give thanks and praise for all that you have and be an inspiration to those around you.

As I embark on my journey home, I hold each and every one of you in prayer. We remain forever united in love and fellowship.

Look after one another as you always do and take time to reconnect with yourselves. Please kindly make contact with Liz Duggan with the following number **07922001862,* should you need any help or seeking to receive any of the sacraments in the church, especially sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, booking masses, funerals and so on. Liz is our parish secretary and pastoral care assistant, she is a wise, friendly and caring human being. Please make contact with her should you need any guidance in our parish sacramental life.

Yours, Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi