



St. Joseph the Worker Parish

Gros Islet, Monchy, Grande Riviere

NEW YEAR'S DAY MESSAGE 2026

The Year 2025 may be summarized as one of challenge, struggle and endurance. Many may have tried to find new meaning to a number of events of the time and in our lives. Challenges are often associated with strife and struggle, with a need to persevere in the midst of suffering, pain and loss. A number of events may have helped us to reflect on our struggles to give up or to die to the things that cause death in our personal lives and our relationships with God and our fellowmen.

As we continue the Archdiocesan Theme *Mamai Bondye Annou Bati L'Eglise Nou Ansanm – People of God, Let Us Build Our Church Together*, we are called in the Spirit of Synodality to a renewed commitment to the growth and development of our families, parish community, workplaces, and neighborhoods. During this year **Dedicated to Men (Males)**, we must work towards sensitizing our men to a better understanding of themselves and role in their families, church, groups and relationships. There is need for greater presence and active participation of men in the life of their family, church and community.

We live in challenging times. Our primary mission must be working towards the holistic growth of our Church and society in a time of economic hardship, violence, crime, immorality, and conflicts. We must always remain focused and endeavor to be living examples of God's love and faithfulness through our courage and perseverance.

We must develop a solid foundation of prayer and listening to God to discern our action (s) or decision (s) in difficult situations or moments of critical choices. We must exercise the virtues of patience, courage, and endurance throughout 2026.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Msgr. Michel Francis – my immediate collaborator, Bro. Collins Ogbuehi, Parish Staff, the Parish Council, members of the various Parish Committees, Confraternities and Groups for your diligent work and service in Christ's vineyard. My heartfelt thanks to all who helped plan and took part in the Advent and Christmas Season liturgies. Thanks to those who cleaned and decorated the Church – a job well done of which I think the entire congregation is greatly appreciative. My gratitude is also extended to the Altar Servers, Lectors, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Ushers, Collectors, the Choirs and Musicians, Animators, Live Streaming Team, Sound Technicians and all who attended the various liturgical celebrations. You have demonstrated through the use of your time, talent and treasure that together we can do great things for God and the good and growth of our parish community.

May the **Peace, Love and Joy** of the **CHRIST CHILD** remain with you throughout 2026!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

Fr. Athanase Joseph
Parish Priest