

A time for opening doors and offering a renewed vision



Now we have a New Year ahead of us, one of expectation and hope. The season of Advent began with excitement, the news of vaccines arriving to challenge the world-wide spread of COVID-19. With the coming months, more and more people will be offered the opportunity of vaccination as priority groups are established to meet the overall societal need. That we had such a break-through so rapidly is a major scientific

achievement. It just shows what can be achieved when we set ourselves a task and then exercise determination and will power in pursuing a common goal. One powerful symbol of the start of the New Year, is the opening of a door, the way in, where crossing the threshold from the street, access is made to share in the hospitality of the house. To shut a door in someone's face is an unfriendly, hostile action that makes very clear our intention of not wishing to talk or listen. It is sometimes suggested that the month name "January" is derived from the god of Roman mythology Janus, the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks both to the future and to the past. But according to ancient Roman farmers' almanacs Juno was the deity of the month. Learning to open doors should be a gift of our faith. Opening doors to those whom we trust is easy enough. In fact, with some, friendship is such that the door is already unlocked and they have access without permission. But to show mercy to others and to have mercy shown to us demands much more. With hope on the horizon regarding COVID-19, there has definitely been a door opened for the benefit of all. But who will be included?

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