



St. Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy

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**1 January 2025**

## **A New Year Message**

Dear friends, sisters, and brothers here at St. Catherine's,

Warm greetings on this 8th day of Christmas and the Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus as we begin the year 2025 with hope and reflection.

As we look back on the year that has passed, I would like to thank each of you for your support and participation in our ministry at St. Catherine's. The year 2024 was a meaningful journey of faith, service, and growth, made possible by the dedication and involvement of our engaged community.

In my first New Year's message as your chaplain last January 1, 2024, I shared my nine wishes for our chaplaincy, which have since guided us in our ministry. Today, as we enter 2025, I am delighted to share what lies ahead for us this year.

### **1. Start of the Chaplain's Vision**

Last December, during the Advent season, I presented the chaplain's vision for St. Catherine's, spanning the years 2025-2030. This vision serves as our roadmap for the coming years, leading us toward a flourishing and impactful community of faith.

### **2. Offering of Stewardship Commitment**

During the Advent season, we embraced the active preparation that Advent calls for through our stewardship campaign, focusing on becoming good stewards of our time, talent, and resources. I hope you have prayerfully reflected on your response and are ready to offer your signed [commitment forms](#) during the offertory at any of our Sunday services, starting January 5.

### **3. Friday Evensong**

Evensong, a cherished tradition, offers a moment of serene worship through prayer and music. Starting this month, we will hold Evensong services every second and fourth Friday at 18:30. I warmly invite you to join us in this beautiful expression of worship.

### **4. Annual Chaplaincy Meeting (ACM)**

#### **a. Renewal of the Electoral Roll**

This year, we will renew the electoral roll. I encourage all eligible members of our congregation to join this list and actively participate in the decision-making processes of our chaplaincy.

**b. A Deliberative Assembly**

I hope this year's ACM will be more deliberative, encouraging meaningful discussions that enrich and strengthen our shared life, work, and ministry in response to God's call.

**5. Pastoral Group Scheme**

Building on the survey results from last September, the church council approved the chaplain's proposal to establish four geographically based pastoral groups. These groups aim to enhance communication, foster participation, and provide leadership opportunities while addressing challenges such as limited volunteer engagement and financial concerns.

**6. Sunday Dedications**

This year, we will dedicate specific Sundays to celebrate the diverse cultural backgrounds within our community, honor volunteers, highlight safeguarding efforts, and recognize other significant aspects of our shared life.

**7. Festival of Faith during Pentecost Sunday**

On Pentecost Sunday, we will hold a Festival of Faith, a joyful celebration of our unity and diversity as a community of believers.

**8. A More Impactful Refugee Ministry**

We will expand our refugee ministry, striving to make a greater impact in the lives of those we serve, reflecting Christ's love and compassion in action.

**9. Strengthening of the Committee System**

Within our church council, we will focus on strengthening the committee system to foster greater participation, align with our mission, and develop more effective leadership.

As we embrace these initiatives, I am filled with hope for what God has in store for us this year. May we continue to walk together in faith, drawing strength from one another and from our shared mission of worship and service.

Let us move forward into 2025 with open hearts and minds, committed to living out our call to serve God and our neighbors. Together, let us make this year a meaningful chapter in the life of St. Catherine's.

May the Lord bless us all in this new year.

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Ablon', with a small cross symbol above the first letter 'A'.

**Antonio Ablon**

Chaplain, St. Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy