

My Dear friends

When our famous Lincolnshire poet Alfred Lord Tennyson put poetry into the tongues of the bells he was living at a time when the world enjoyed comparative peace, yet he wrote of "ancient forms of party strife" and "the faithful coldness of the times." What was true then is a thousand times more true now, for we see party strife poisoning the very springs of our national life, and society has grown increasingly cold towards God.

The result is the world as we see it today. If it were not for the faithful few holding the bastions of Christendom against the onrush of political materialism, there would be little hope for the survival of Christian institutions. It may well be that we who keep the faith with the past are holding the last thin strip of country that stands between civilisation and anarchy. Do not be afraid of our small numbers.

When you stand to fight and defend the Kingdom of God, you fight on the side of the great army of martyrs that have gone before us. It is not the first time in history nor will it be the last, that Christianity has stood its ground against almost seemingly overwhelming odds. Let this above all else be your New Year resolution: to hold on to your own personal strip of ground for Christendom.

"Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindler hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in Christ that is to be."

May Almighty God Bless and Keep You all.

I pray that you have a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Yours In Christ Jesus. Father Ian