



### At The End Of The Year

As this year draws to its end,  
We give thanks for the gifts it brought  
And how they became inlaid within  
Where neither time nor tide can touch them.

The days when the veil lifted  
And the soul could see delight;  
When a quiver caressed the heart  
In the sheer exuberance of being here.

Surprises that came awake  
In forgotten corners of old fields  
Where expectation seemed to have quenched.

The slow, brooding times  
When all was awkward  
And the wave in the mind  
Pierced every sore with salt.

The darkened days that stopped  
The confidence of the dawn.

Days when beloved faces shone brighter  
With light from beyond themselves;  
And from the granite of some secret sorrow  
A stream of buried tears loosened.

We bless this year for all we learned,  
For all we loved and lost  
And for the quiet way it brought us  
Nearer to our invisible destination.

John O' Donohue

### Blessing for the New Year

May God, the source and origin of all  
blessing,  
grant you grace,  
pour out his blessing in abundance,  
and keep you safe from harm throughout  
the year.  
Amen.

May he give you integrity in the faith,  
endurance in hope,  
and perseverance in charity  
with holy patience to the end.  
Amen.

May he order your days and your deeds in  
his peace,  
grant your prayers in this and in every  
place,  
and lead you happily to eternal life.  
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you  
forever.  
Amen.