



December 25, 1990

No. 231

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

CHRISTMAS DAY.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENEHY'S CROSS, COBLENZ



Joy to the World



From the Pastor

My dear friends,

What will we wish you for this Christmas - you and those you love?

"I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of Peace - peace for his people and his friends, and those who turn to him in their hearts."

Peace was the message brought by the angels on the first

Christmas night. This is our prayer for you as you celebrate Christmas 1990 - peace in your hearts, peace in your homes, peace in your neighbourhood.

We extend a special welcome to all who have journeyed home for the feast; we hope your holiday will be memorable and happy. For you who cannot come - we remember you all in our prayers.

To one and all may the special blessing of the Christ Child be yours now and throughout 1991.

Very sincerely,

Denis O' Connor P.P.



Dear Bulletin Readers,

It is my privilege this year to wish you all the joys and blessings of Christmas on behalf of the Bulletin team.

The aim of our Bulletin is to be the mouthpiece of the Parish.

We would like the communication to be two-way. Feel free to send in YOUR views to the Bulletin. Even if you feel like criticising us, we can take it!

Now that Fr. Bernard (master of delegation!) insists on playing a minor role himself, we are struggling to live up to the standards he has set. It's a hard act to follow, but we keep trying.

Sincerely,

Elsie Harris

Editor

P.S. Could you hazard a guess as to the compiler of the crossword on page 7?

Clue: his other talent is delegation!

*Peace
on Earth*



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

REPORTS began to surface in the media earlier in the week about a strange occurrence near the fishing village of Blackrock, now a suburb of Cork city. It appears that a group of fishermen - there were seven of them - were coming ashore after fishing unsuccessfully for several hours. A stranger surprised them on the shore and asked them: 'Have you caught anything, friends?' When they answered 'no', he invited them to try again. They did and caught a large number of fish.

He then suggested that they cook the fish on a fire on the foreshore and invited them to 'come and have breakfast'. He divided bread among them and also the cooked fish.

Questions began to be asked in the media. Who was this man? The fishermen were reluctant to speculate but obvious conclusions were drawn by many commentators.

While no statement was forthcoming from official Church sources, the inference was that this was a very ordinary occurrence being blown up out of all proportion by speculation and media hype.

A spokesperson for the new Primate was reluctant to be drawn on the matter. The most he would say was that, if there was any real significance in the incident, he felt that the occurrence would have taken place in a location of more religious importance like Knock or Clonmacnoise.

An official of Cork Corporation,

who did not wish to be named, felt that if there was any substance in the affair, they would have been informed. They could then have arranged a more fitting 'appearance'. He added that the weather was hardly suitable for such an event, in any case.

The fishermen themselves continue to fish. One of them - he gave his name as Simon - said they would always remain touched by the experience.

* * * * *

I'd like to take this opportunity to say 'A Happy Christmas' to those who read this column. I hope you find Christ wherever you go.

* * * * *

A Prayer for



Lord,
thank you for our priests,
these apostles handed down
from the moment of your choosing.
Thank you for their blessings,
their teaching,
their concern,
their care,
their forgiveness in your name,
their love,
their holy celebration.
Thank you for their human frailties
and their understanding.
Dear Lord,
keep them safe and well.



Children's Page



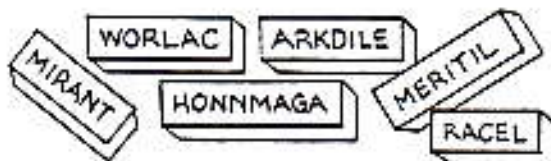
PUZZLE TIME

Find your way from 0 to 100 through the coded numbers that add up to 100. The code is A = 1, B = 2, C = 3 and so on.



The letters of these Irish counties
are all mixed up.

Help the postman to deliver the parcels.

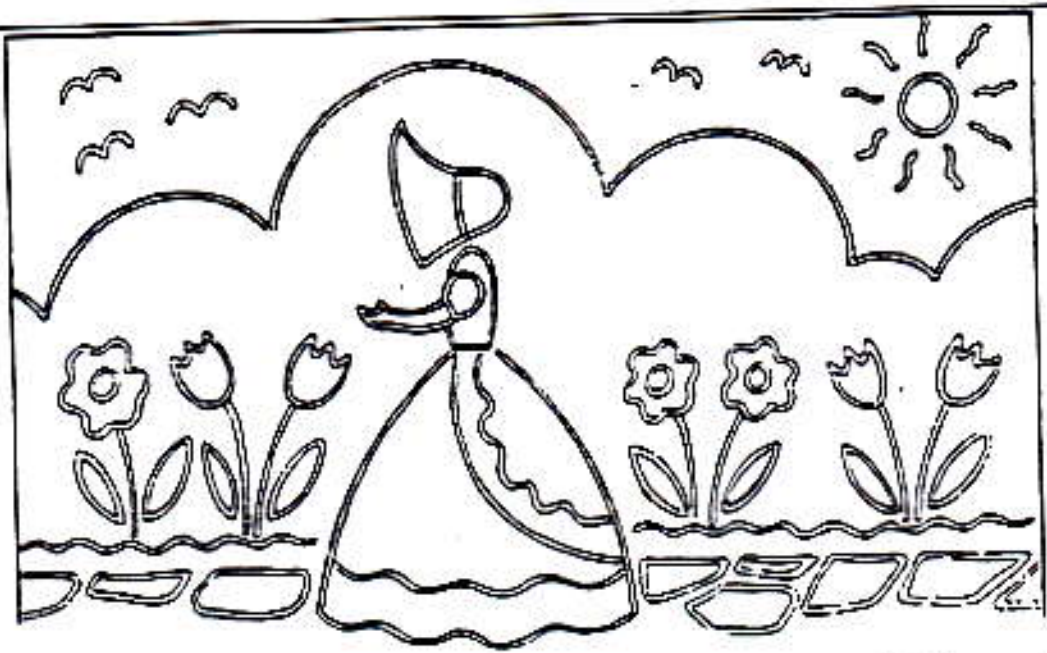


WORDS



Here are the beginnings and endings of 8 words. Can you match them?

There are letters missing from the alphabet. Find the missing letters and make a word with them.



Once upon a time there was a woman who wished for a little child, so she paid an old witch twelve silver shillings for a seed. In time the seed grew into a delicate little maiden half a thumb's length in height and she was called Thumbelina.

Thumbelina was asleep one night in her polished walnut shell cradle when a toad stole her away. The toad wished her ugly son to marry Thumbelina. The toads put Thumbelina in the centre of a pond upon a water lily. Thumbelina cried and cried until little fish rushed to her aid. They broke the stem of the water lily and away sailed Thumbelina out of the sky and rescued Thumbelina. He flew away with her to his nest but when his friends saw Thumbelina they made fun of him and he let her fall into the bushes.

Thumbelina was so cold until a kindly field mouse took her home where it was nice and warm. After several days the field mouse took Thumbelina to visit her neighbour the mole. On the way they found a swallow lying frozen on the ground. Thumbelina felt so sorry for him that she brought blankets and hot food for him that night. All winter she nursed the swallow, until one spring morning the swallow flew away.

Thumbelina was once again in trouble as the mole and her host, the field mouse, had decided that she must marry the mole. She was so unhappy at the thought of living underground with the mole, but there was nowhere else to go.

The day before the wedding Thumbelina was strolling in the sunlight for the last time, feeling so sad, when she heard the sweet song of the swallow. It was her friend, the swallow. On seeing her tears he swooped down and flew away with the little maiden to his nest. There Thumbelina met the most handsome prince she had ever seen and they got married. Thumbelina and her fairy prince lived together in a castle of gold and white leaves for all time with the cheerful birdsong of the swallow serenading them from above in the bright sunlight.

QUESTIONS

1. On what day did God create the sun, the moon and the stars?
2. What kind of bird did Noah first release from the Ark after the rains abated?
3. What is the last word in the New Testament?
4. What was written by the Finger of God on two tablets of stone high up on the Mountain called Sinai?
5. What is the last book of the bible?
6. To what town was St. Paul travelling when he was blinded by a vision of the Lord?
7. Where would you find the Gatun Lake, the Galband Cut and the Miraflores Locks?
8. What is the Mistral?
9. In what city would you find the Jacques Cartier Bridge?
10. In what ocean is the Maldive Island Group?
11. Iraq was once part of Mesopotamia which means between two rivers - name the rivers.
12. Suez lies at one end of the Suez Canal - what city is at the other end?
13. In which famous book would you find the characters Denesor and and Polokhov?
14. Which English 17th century writer's most famous works are entitled Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained?
15. What is the name of the last unfinished novel by Charles Dickens?
16. What is the name of the author of Ulysses?
17. Who created the characters Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn?
18. In the book Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man, who was the artist?

19. In Alice in Wonderland, which characters celebrated an unbirthday party?
20. Where is the Book of Kells kept?
21. Who wrote The Importance of Being Ernest and The Picture of Dorian Grey?
22. Why did Louis Washkansky (S. Africa) achieve world wide fame in 1967?

Answers on Page 7

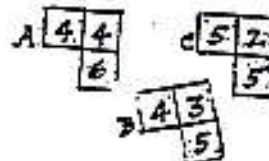
NUMBER GAMES

1 What are the next numbers in the following sequences?

- a) 4 12 5 15 8 7
- b) 10 100 1,100 11,000 121,000 ?
- c) 1 6 12 72 78 ?

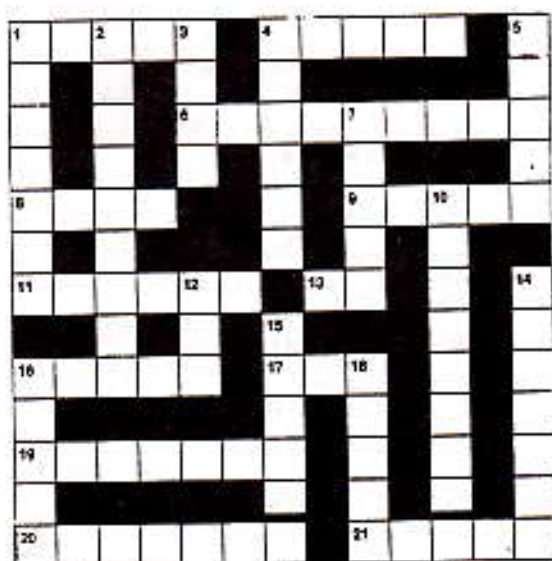
2 Part of the number square has been removed. Which section should be inserted so that the lines add up to the same total vertically and horizontally?

7		5	3
4	6	3	4
5	4	6	3
3	3	5	7
3	5	3	4



Answers:

- 1.a) 24 (X3-7)
 - b) 1,210,000 (x10 x 11)
 - c) 468 (x6 + 6)
- 2.B



ACROSS

1. First (man) among equals (5)
HINT: His second name is 19 across.
4. Our Dean ain't 'half _____ (5)
6. A rebel diocese plus a stream marks our newest parish area (9)
8. The Way, the Truth and the _____ (4)
9. One bounds our parish to the north (5)
11. What the Poor Clares eat on Christmas Day (6)
HINT: Meat is out!
13. Currently, the only official pronoun for God (2)
16. Adjective for last Sunday in

- Ordinary Time (5)
17. To do this is human, unlike forgiveness (3)
19. Still bounding around, even after her crash (7)
20. Carthage is the patron; Michael is Bishop (7)
21. Model Farm Road houses worth up to £135,000 (5)

DOWN

1. Properly, a Sacristan or a Taoiseach (7)
2. The way to proceed through Advent (9)
3. Divine Title (4)
4. Rising Star on Parish Team! (6)
5. Tenth word in Nicene Creed (5)
7. 1990 addition to Technology Park (5)
10. This Sovereign lives on in Farranlea Road (8)
12. Holy thing used in four Sacraments (3)
14. First Bishop of Cork (7)
15. Brendan Comiskey's bushy diocese (5)
16. Mgr. Lefebvre is one (5)
18. The One described by 16 Across rules over one (5)

HAND IN your Crossword entries to the C.P. Centre before 1.00 p.m. on Sunday next, 30th December.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 3

1. On the fourth day.
2. A raven.
3. Amen.
4. Ten Commandments.
5. Revelation.
6. Damascus.
7. Panama Canal.
8. A cold wind that blows down the Rhone Valley in France.
9. Montreal.
10. Indian Ocean.
11. Tigres and Euphrates.
12. Port Said.
13. War & Peace by Leo Tolstoy
14. John Milton.
15. The Mystery of Edwin Drood.
16. James Joyce.
17. Mark Twain.
18. James Joyce.
19. Mad Hatter, March Hare and Doormouse.
20. Trinity College, Dublin.
21. Oscar Wilde.
22. He was the first man to receive a human heart transplant and survive the operation.



COMMENT

YOUTH NEWS by BRIAN

1990 proved to be a good and successful year for many. It was only in November that the so-called 'Robinson Era' began. June saw Jack's army take the country by storm with a series of unprecedented results in Italy, and the atmosphere in Highfield Rugby Club during these games was only preceded by the celebration when they won the Munster Senior League trophy.

Mount Mercy won the Munster Senior Hockey Cup, while Coláiste an Spioraid Naomh achieved

victory in the Munster Senior Soccer Cup. Cork won the Hurling and Football double and the exploits of Wilton United F.C. thrilled the parish.

On a national stage, although they say it's hard to keep a Goodman down, that was certainly the direction Larry went. It looked like Brian Keenan was personally sprung from his basement prison by Gerry Collins! Although Ger pledged that the Government "will do anything we can to get the hostages out", he was surely referring to the Lebanon only, for in Britain the Birmingham Six are still languishing in prison and look like spending their seventeenth Christmas there.

~~*****~~ LET US PRESERVE CHRISTMAS!

Jesus was not born on December 25th exactly. The Christian liturgy chose that date in order to give a Christian meaning to the Roman feast of Unvanquished Sun. The pagans of the Roman Empire celebrated the sun's rebirth during the longest night of the year. That midnight was considered as the starting point of the sun's march, which then began to overcome the darkness.

It was easy for Christians to substitute Jesus Christ for the sun and to make the birth of Christ coincide liturgically with

the pagan celebration of the birth of the sun. The centuries that followed have proved the Church's genius, for bit by bit the meaning of Christmas pushed the pagan celebration into oblivion and instead filled the entire world with the joy of the Redeemer's birth.

What a shame if consumerism and worldly values were to become the new paganism. By celebrating Christmas, ancient Christianity managed to Christianize the pagan Feast of the Sun. Today's Christians' neopaganism is managing to paganize Christmas. Let us not allow that to happen!

~~*****~~ AREN'T WE LUCKY?

An Evangelist "New Church" group in England expects its members to pay a tenth of their salaries in tithes each year. This averages at £700! - ("Sunday Times" December 16, 1990)