



December 25, 1991

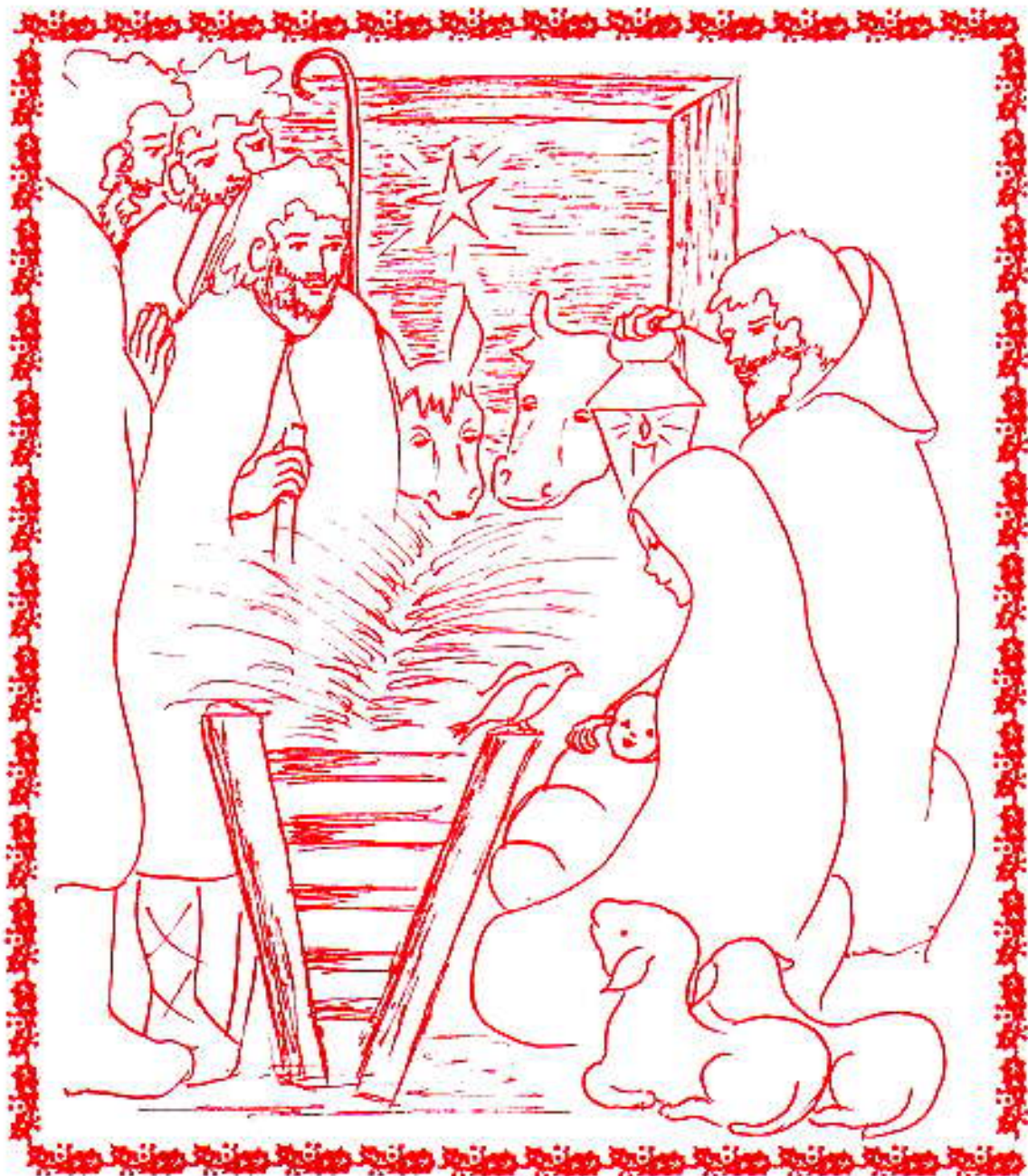
No. 277

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

CHRISTMAS DAY



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENMEYS CROSS, CO. DK



(Illustration by Poor Clares)



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*



My dear friends,

There is a beautiful Christian tradition that God sends everybody into the world with a special message to deliver - a special song to sing - a special love to share. Nobody else can speak my message, sing my song, offer my love - it's all special to me.

At this holy time of Christmas we recall that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that we might have life through Him. On this blessed Christmas morning we thank the Lord for His goodness to us.

We in the Parish Team readily

acknowledge that you have been an inspiration to us in our work among you. Your welcome has warmed our world and brightened our lives. We thank you for this - spread it around - nobody else can sing your song, give your message, bestow your love.

We remember in particular at this time our very Special Friends - the sick and housebound - and all who are unable to join their families at this time. We extend a warm welcome to all who are home for Christmas. We remember you all in our prayers.

May Christmas 1991 be a peaceful, memorable, and happy time for all of you - and may you be filled with joy of the Infant Jesus Himself.

Very sincerely,

*Denis O'Conor PP*

*the  
editor  
writes.....*



Dear Bulletin Readers,

On behalf of the Bulletin Team I wish all our readers a happy Christmas.

In the past year we had to part with Fr. Bernard - although he still keeps in touch with us. Fortunately, Fr. Finbarr has volunteered to come to our meetings and be our contact with the Parish Team - and see that we don't stray too far from the straight and narrow!

We are delighted too that Colm Linehan has joined us, bringing with him a breath of youth,

As usual, I am taking this opportunity to thank all who are involved in the Bulletin - in total about 150! And thanks to you, our readers, for your very welcome words of support and encouragement.

Yours sincerely,

*Elsie Harris*





# PEACE ON EARTH

## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

JOHN HUME was recently quoted in the media as saying, "Let us try to usher in a new and kinder era in the affairs of our country, of our continent and our world." Who would quibble with these aspirations this Christmas-time?

In the northern part of our island the hate and bitterness, the maiming and the killing continue relentlessly. We Christians profess to be a peaceful people, a people of hope. Are we really?

In Europe the earlier promise of a peaceful and economically sound future seems tarnished with want and misery in so many countries which so recently celebrated their release from the yoke of communism.

In the Middle East the tension and the fighting continue despite efforts at mediation. Until the whole Palestinian question is addressed and justly settled, there can be no peace in the Middle East.

Part of the problem is that we have all been taken in by the intensive Israeli propaganda for most of the past half-century. The typical Jew/Israeli is seen as industrious, spunky and has a right to his homeland; the typical Arab/Palestinian as lazy, shifty, with no right to be there in the first place.

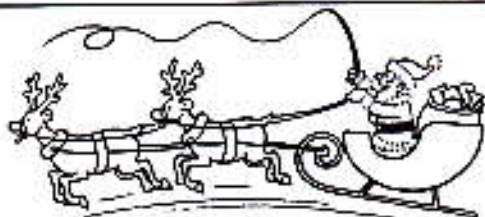
In fact, there are some four million Palestinians and many of them were driven out of their homeland, Palestine, where they had lived long before the modern State of Israel was forced upon them. Many of them now live in tented villages in Jordan, in Kuwait, on the West Bank, in Gaza and the Sinai, in Syria and the Lebanon. They, too, have a right to a homeland which might well be a shared homeland with those Jews who wish to live in Palestine.

At the time of the recent Madrid Peace Conference many Jews in Israel demonstrated for peace and reconciliation. Their leaders, as so often in the past, continue on their arrogant and aggressive path. Perhaps it is time that the eyes of the world are opened to the fact that the State of Israel is not the Promised Land of the Jews of old. It is home also to many millions of Arabs who have a right to live in peace there.

Perhaps, at this special time in the Holy Land, we might all pray for peace in the Middle East, in Europe and in our own land.

I wish you peace, joy and happiness this Christmas.



**THE DRUMMER**

In the African Jungle some tribes have witch doctors who chant magic spells to cure sick people. They also perform special dances which they hope will bring rain during dry spells and they dance to the heat of drums. They often send messages on these drums.

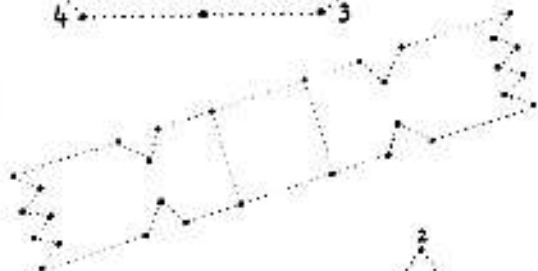
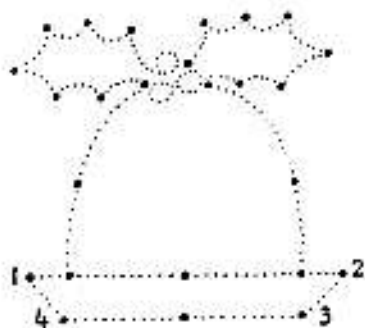
On Christmas Eve, when Santa was delivering toys round the world, he came upon a witch doctor who was pounding away at his drum.

"What is the problem, my friend" asked Santa.

"There's no water" answered the witch doctor.

"So you are drumming for rain" said Santa.

"Not at all" replied the witch doctor "I'm trying to call the plumber!"

**Colour the Picture****Join the dots — draw Christmas things**



## TEENAGE PAGE

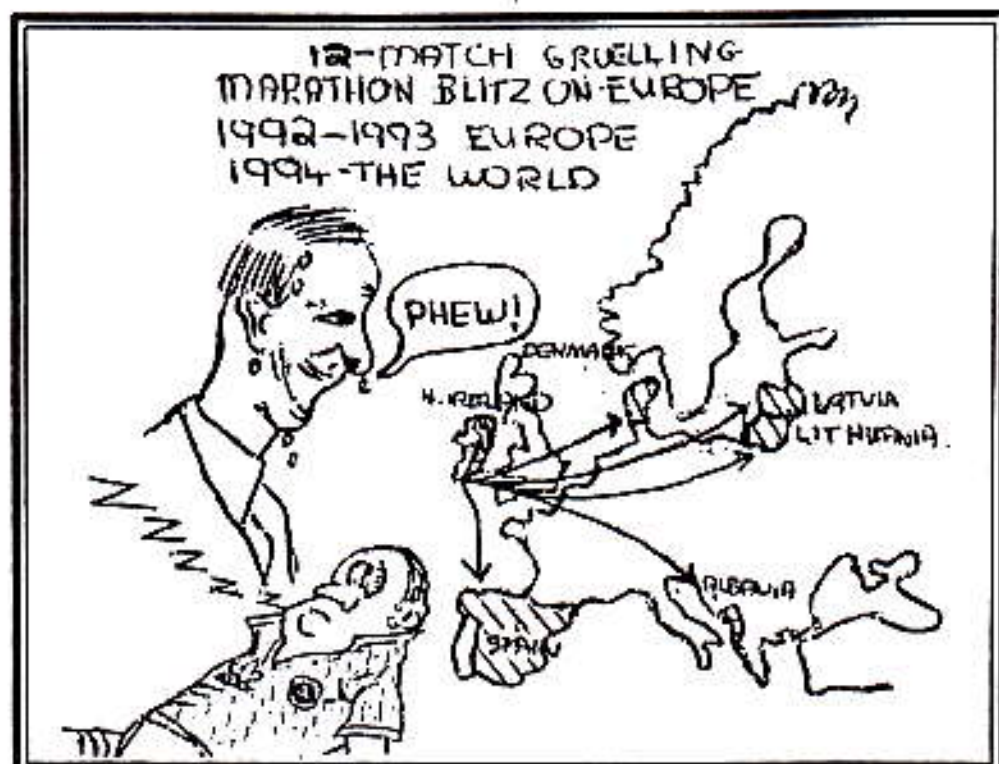
### WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN?

For me Christmas is a time of togetherness and a time to get to know one another. It is also a time of forgiveness, giving and sharing. Christmas is one of the best times for forgiveness because Jesus is born, He is starting out his life free from sin and if we forgive we can go along with Him. I also feel that Christmas is a time of Peace and Tranquility. Spare a thought though for all those young people away from home who don't have the money to come back for Christmas.

by Carol O'Leary

### CITY CHILD

I woke up that morning, it was no different from any other morning for me. I got dressed and walked down the street. Lights and decorations lit up the whole of Cork City. The bitter cold wind cutting through my bones stole the meagre energy I possessed. Will I have anything to eat today? Everyone stares at me in my shabby clothes resting loosely on my shivering body. Sometimes I wish I was like them, "Them" they all seem so far away like a different species living a different existence. At least they matter. I could die in the morning and no one would know the difference except for the rats who scutter round the gutters where I sleep. Oh, of course it gets better at Christmas and then I'm just another statistic for the next eleven months.



## HOW CLEVER ARE YOU?

If you can answer all the questions you are very clever. A prize will be given for the first correct answering of all questions.

1. In which Book of the Bible does it recount about Abel's killing of Cain?
2. Two fathers and two sons each shot a duck and none of them shot the same duck. Only 3 ducks were shot. Explain.
3. A Kerry farmer had 22 cows. All but 10 cows were killed by lightening. How many had she left?
4. The number of apples in a barrel doubles every minute. The barrel is full of apples in an hour. When was the barrel half-full?
5. A man is at the bottom of a well 30 ft. deep. He has trouble getting out as his ladder is broken. Each day he gets up 3 ft. but slips back 2 ft. When will the man reach the top of the well?
6. An old Corkonian and a young Corkonian are walking along Patrick St. The young man is the old man's son, but the old man is not the young man's father. Is there some mix up?
7. A man has 2 minutes in which to catch a train and 2 kms. to go. If he travels the first km. at a speed of 30 km/hr, at what rate must he go the 2nd km. in order to catch the train?

8.



If it costs 5p to break a link of the chain and 10p to weld it again, what is the least it would cost to join in a single length of chain the five sections as shown?

9. The equation in Roman Numerals is not correct  $XI + I = X$ . Make the equation correct without touching anything.
10. There was a Curate, a Sacristan, an Organist and an Altar Boy. Their names (not in this order) were Finbarr, Charlie, John and Denis. Finbarr and the Sacristan did not get on with John, but Charlie got on well with the Altar Boy. John was a cousin of the Organist and the Curate was friendly with Denis and the Altar Boy. Put the correct names on the Curate, Sacristan, Organist and Altar Boy.

Name.....

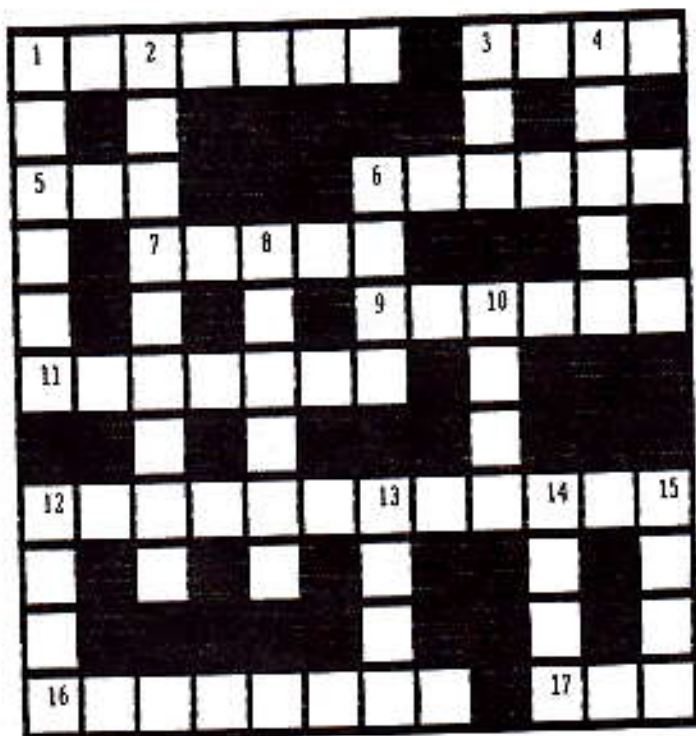
Address.....

All entries should be left in the C.P. Centre by Sunday, 5th January, 1992.





# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Name.....

Address.....

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### Across

1. Nine Day Devotions (7)
3. Part of our Diocese (4)
5. Female Christian Worker (3)
6. God loves these.....(6)
7. Our esteemed Editor (5)
9. Banner (6)
11. Speech (7)
12. The Parish that borders eleven others (12)
16. We had one of these this year (7)
17. The Almighty (3)

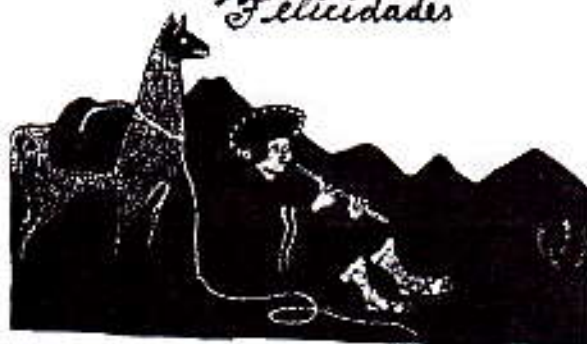
### Down

1. Papal Envoy (6)
- 2 & 12 D. 7th century Theologian (9) & (4)
3. Band of light (3)
4. Small branch, of holly, say (5)
6. Between 12 and 20 (4)
8. Ghost (6)
10. The reasons for Confession (4)
12. See 2 Down.
13. Corona (4)
14. Hymn (4)
15. What all little children should be at Christmas (4)





## *Felicidades*



CINCO PERU

FOR US here in Cork, the lights in Patrick Street and Wilton Shopping Centre create an air of festivity. The mood of people before Christmas is one of joy and goodwill. I spent seven of the past twelve Christmas seasons in the shanty town of Trujillo, Peru.

For the poor who live in Peru Christmas is a one-day celebration. The reason for this is that living is a day-to-day survival exercise. To create an atmosphere of joy in most parishes there is a contest between "Pastores", i.e., the Shepherds. The different groups within the parish present their traditional Christmas hymns and dances. They dress in their native costumes.

Christmas Eve with midnight Mass is the highlight, and it goes on for hours. The reason for this is not the sermon(!), but

once again the Pastores come and dance before the crib and offer to the child Jesus little gifts.

In almost every home in the parish there is an effort to have a crib. The crib is the centre of attraction for the twelve days of Christmas. After midnight Mass the placing of the new-born Jesus in the crib is a very solemn moment, and normally it falls to the youngest member. Afterwards they sing hymns and try to celebrate all night with whatever food and drink they may have. Drinking chocolate and a bannbrack would be the most traditional goodies among the poor. The local priest is invited to most homes to bless the crib.

Like Ireland, there too is a sharing of gifts - however with a difference. Each member receives just one. At the beginning of December lots are drawn amongst the family members, and whoever you draw, you will buy the gift for that person.

For the Peruvians, Christmas is a time of hope, and no matter how poor they are, they celebrate. They will sing and dance all night after midnight Mass, because for them, Jesus is their only hope and often their only reason to celebrate.

*Fr. Finbarr*

Did Joseph carve some foolish thing  
From extra bits of wood,  
An ox, a camel, or a bird,  
Because the Christ was good?

Oh, sometimes years are very long,  
And sometimes years run fast,  
And when the Christ had put away  
Small, earthy things at last

And died upon a wooden cross  
One afternoon in spring,  
Did Mary find the little toy,  
And sit ... remembering?

