



December 25, 1992

No. 320

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

CHRISTMAS DAY.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENVER'S ORDER, COOK



- St. Columba

(Illustration by Poor Clares)



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

My dear friends,

There is a beauty and magic about Christmas that time cannot dim, and is special to the feast. It's a time for caring and sharing, and returning love for love.

It's right that it would be so. We are celebrating an event that fills us with wonder and awe. God came into this world of ours to lift us up to Himself. He came without pomp or ceremony, but with love that knows no bounds.

In this short life of ours we are privileged to be God's hands to share his love with our own, our neighbours, and everyone who

needs an encouraging word. Our fondest memories are of times we shared and did things together. Cherish these - and make more for those you love.

We, in the Parish Team, deeply appreciate your encouragement, generosity, and the inspiration you have given us in our work. We remember you all in our prayers and Masses. We remember especially people who are lonely or sick - you are very dear to Jesus. We welcome all who are home for the Feast.

For all of you - may Christmas 1992 be a happy, peaceful and memorable celebration - filled with the joy and blessing of the Infant Jesus.

Very sincerely,

Ann: O'Connor
??



*the
editor
writes....*

Dear Bulletin Readers,

I wish you all a very happy Christmas on behalf of the Bulletin team.

As always, I take this opportunity to thank all of you who keep this Bulletin going - our Bulletin team, our typist, our regular contributors, the folders, the handers-out after Mass and all those involved in the distribution to the homes.

A special word of appreciation to the Dean, Fr.

John, Sr. Ursula, and of course to Fr. Finbarr who is being drawn deeper and deeper into the Bulletin network! We value their encouragement and support.

Thanks to yourselves, our readers, for your continuing interest in the Bulletin. And do let us have your views and comments.

We know that many of our emigrants are back with us for Christmas. To all of these we say "Welcome Home", and a safe return journey.

Yours sincerely,

Elsie Harris



**SING TO THE LORD
A NEW CANTICLE ALLELUIA
FOR THE LORD HAS DONE
WONDROUS DEEDS†**



Now don't tell me... Pilate?

COMMENT

ALTERNATIVE SLANTS by "THOMAS"

The crib has messages for adults as well as children. To me it speaks of the freedom from worldly power and possessions that Christ had, which allowed him to speak out when He saw injustice.

The Irish Bishops are experiencing the freedom of the crib. They had lost power and dogmatic authority and are no longer dominating government decisions.

As a result how wonderfully eloquent in their pastoral of December 8th "Work is the Key" wherein they speak against unemployment and emigration. How inspired was their attitude to the referenda, where they both acknowledged our maturity and forced us to agonise and think it out ourselves.

Well done, your Lordships, well done Holy Spirit.

CHRISTMAS COMMENT by "Luke"

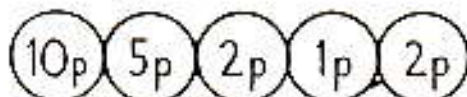
AS CHRISTIANITY moves towards the end of the second millennium one wonders how Christ would evaluate its progress. Would He rate Christianity a success? An improvement on the Jewish religion which had existed for the previous eighteen hundred years? An experiment that went very wrong?

Christianity has survived two thousand years and we have Christ's promise that He will always be with us. But how aware are we of His presence, of His promise?

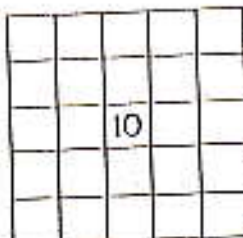
We argue about so many things; the role of the laity, the Latin Mass, the lay ministries, women priests, the sign of peace at Mass. We want, we want. Can we really say in our hearts that we are Christians who are empowered to love and to forgive, to heal and to uplift?

John, at the end of Chapter 6, said of Jesus, "Many of His disciples left Him and stopped going with Him". Hopefully, we can answer, with Peter, "We believe" and "Who shall we go to?" when we are asked, "Do you want to go away too?"

Perhaps this is a good time to do our evaluation? May the Peace of Christ be with you this Christmas.



The total value of the coins shown here is twenty pence. Can you fill the square with the coins in such a way that each line (across, down and the two corner-to-corner diagonals) adds up to twenty? We have already placed one number in position.



MICKEY MOUSE!

For your party dessert, nothing looks better than 'Mickey Mouse'.

You need: Pear halves; a few currants; a strip of angelica; a few glazed cherries; green jelly.

Put a pear round size up on a base of jelly.

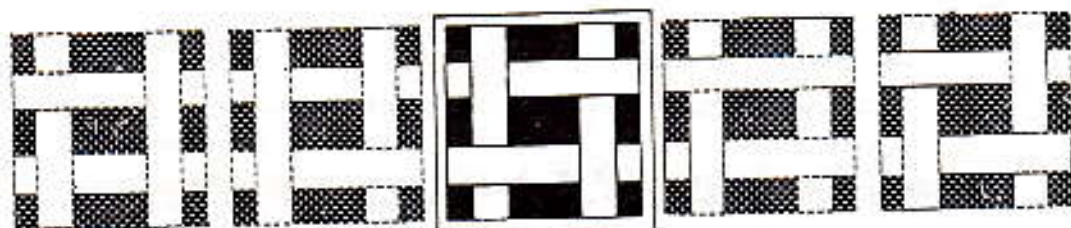
Use two currants as eyes for the mouse, and a section of cherry as its nose. A strip of angelica makes a fine tail and press a few shreds in place as whiskers.



A yellow sweet in front of the mouse's nose will look like a piece of cheese.

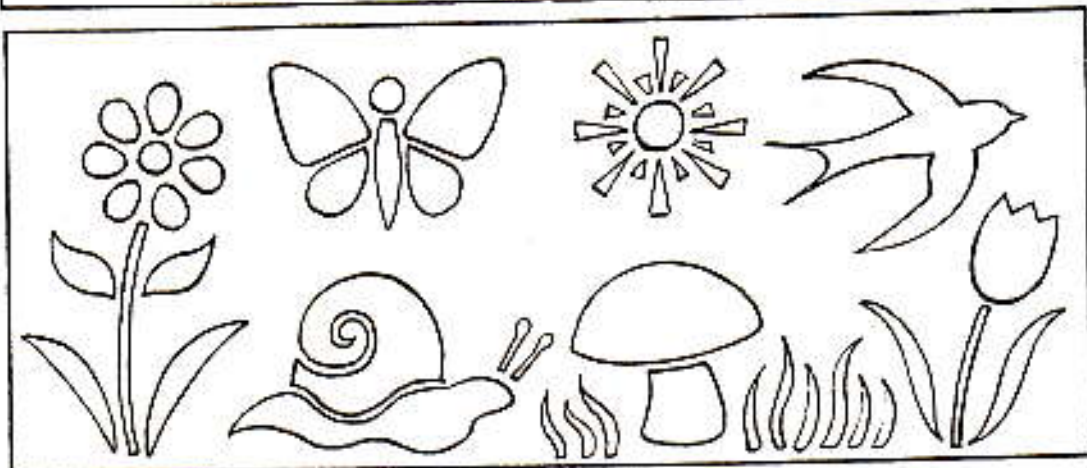
I hope nobody is afraid of mice!

PUZZLE TIME



One design is the same as the one in the middle, seen from the back. Which?

FUN WITH CRAYONS





TEENAGE QUIZ

1. Name Ireland's two medal winners in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics?
 2. In the T.V. series, Beverly Hills 90210, what is the name of the newspaper that Brandon and Andrea work on?
 3. What Oscar winning actor stars with Whitney Houston in the film "The Bodyguard"?
 4. Name the lead singer with INXS?
 5. Name the band which won an MTV Music Video Award for the song "Tennessee".
 6. For what movie did Tasmin Archer sing "Sleeping Satellite"?
 7. What two countries make up the peninsula of Iberia?
 8. Who is the leader of the Democratic Left and what party did it break from?
 9. In Beverly Hills 90210 where did the Walsh family live before Los Angeles?
 10. Where will the 1996 Olympics be held?
 11. What country won this year's European Soccer Championships in Sweden?
 12. What animal is the symbol of the World Wildlife Fund?
 13. Who shot John Lennon in December 1980?
 14. With which band do you associate ZOO TV?
 15. What was Marilyn Monroe's real name?
 16. In which film did Clark Gable say, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn"?
 17. By what name is Reg Dwight better known?
 18. When did Boris Becker win his first Wimbledon?
 19. Which film released in 1982 had the highest box office gross of all time?
 20. Who won an automatic All Star for Hurling this year?
 21. What two actors played the leading roles in "Casualties of War"?
 22. What is the name of Gloria Estefan's backing group?
 23. For which football club does John Aldridge play?
- Q. There were two Indians leaning up against a wall, one small Indian and one big Indian. The small Indian was the son, but the big Indian was not the father. What is the Indians' relationship?

Solve: Make the following into nine fifty by drawing one line and not changing anything.

10 10 10

* A prize will be awarded for the first correct set of answers opened.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AGE _____



THE MIND BENDER

I didn't know

DID
YOU
KNOW?



This test can be classed as a measure of your intelligence, your fluency with words and your creativity. In the past few years since this test was developed, there have been few people who could solve all the 24 questions at their first attempt.

Many, however, report getting answers long after they have put the test aside, particularly at unexpected moments when their minds were relaxed. Other have reported solving the questions over a period of days.

The idea is to accept the test as a personal challenge. There is a prize for the first correct solution opened.

Each question contains the initials or words that make the mathematical state. Answers will be given after Christmas.

Example: 16 = O in the P

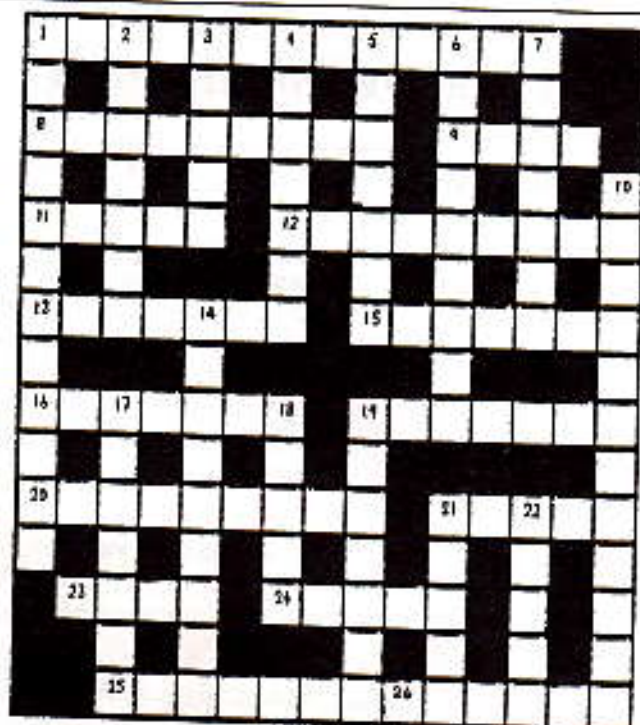
Answer: 16 ounces in a pound.

- 26 = L of the A
- 7 = D of the W
- 1001 = A.N
- 12 = S of the Z
- 54 = C in a D (with J's)
- 9 = P in the S.S
- 88 = P.K on a K.B
- 13 = S on the A.F
- 32 = D.F at which W.F
- 18 = H on a G.C
- 90 = D in a R.A
- 200 = for P.G in a G of M
- 7 = S on a F.P.P
- 3 = B.M (S.H.T.R.)
- 4 = Q in a G
- 24 = H in a D
- 1 = W on a U
- 57 = H.V
- 11 = P in a F.T
- 29 = D in F in L.Y
- 64 = S on a C.B
- 76 = T in the B.P
- 7 = W of the W
- 13 = L in a B.D

* Answers, with name and address, to the C.P. Centre by 6th January.



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Entries into
C.P. Centre
by 6th Jan.



ACROSS

1. "Forthe humility of his handmaid" (Luke 1,RSV) (2,3,8)
8. Not a jig, not a reel, not Irish at all. (9)
9. Look, impolitely. (4)
11. This animal is all round before the mother. (5)
12. Where this bulletin expresses gratitude. (9)
13. Betrayed - so no more available. (4,3)
15. Brisk notes. (7)
16. A second name for St. Pinbarr the second? (7)
19. A wonder that you or I couldn't perform. (7)
20. Christmas visitors. (9)
21. The grapevine, interpreted by "Luke". (5)
23. One of the Wise Men of our time - the boss. (4)
24. Human or horticultural, an offshoot. (5)
25. On this day the one who loves you may give you the bird, but also some jumping noblemen. (Good Lord!) (7)
26. Modern male or biblical scholar. (6)

DOWN

1. If this is you, have no fear, there's always Jude. (8,4)
2. Everything is contained in it. (7)
3. The world's greatest giver. Needs very big clue No.2 (5)
4. The answer to this one is obvious. (7)
5. A place that is never described as Olde Worlde. (7)
6. Canine accessory often worn by humans - very high profile humans! (3,6)
7. Beginning of perception. (7)
10. Little Albert is a Romeo, yet once more. (3,4,5)
14. Loose coins given by garage mechanic after small service? (3,6)
17. Traditional Christmas custom (not to be encouraged) is to ... (7)
18. These are not 3-legged, yet they are 3-footed. (5)
19. What Christmas is really all about. (7)
21. Add meat to this in order to make seasonal cakes. (5)
22. They were warned in a ... not to go back to Herod. (5)



THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



At Bethlehem born,
at Nazareth brought up,
he lived in Galilee.
A sign in the sky; we saw it ourselves.
How the star shone! The shepherds that night
in the fields fell to their knees in amazement and said:
Glory to the Father, alleluia,
Glory to the Son and Holy Spirit,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The star was a particularly evocative symbol. Variouslly interpreted as a figure of an angel or as a sign of the Holy Spirit, it pointed the magi (and so also the members of the church who meditate on the gospel) to Christ.

"Is it to be wondered at," asked John Chrysostem, "that a divine star ministers to the rising Sun of Righteousness? It halts above the head of the child as if saying, 'This is he'."

In Russia, the custom exists of fasting (on the Christmas vigil) until the first star appears. This brings to mind both the star which led the magi to Bethlehem and Christ who is the true light. May this day also be a day of fast in our souls: let us abstain from all bad or useless thoughts and speech, and await in silence and composure the saviour who is coming to us. Darkness falls. Soon the first star will rise and mark, according to the church calendar, the start of the new day and of the great feast of Christmas. With the rising of this star, may the light of our Lord rise for us so that, in the words of the apostle Peter, "Ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face.

Christ is the Morning Star,
who, when the night of this world is past,
gives to his saints the promise of the
light of life,
and opens everlasting day.

