



Saturday, December 25th, 1994

No. 405

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Christmas Day



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENAGH'S CROSS, CO. RM



Courtesy of the Poor Clares



My dear friends,

During my recent illness I saw a full episode of 'Fair City' for the first time. It left a lasting impression on me, it was so awfully sad. Some five or six couples made their appearances on screen at different times, and not one kind or encouraging word passed between them in that whole hour. There was nothing but bitterness, and cynicism, and exploitation - so disappointing - life couldn't be like that surely. Then I thought how it is being reflected in our Dail as I write - not to mention the Church, cringing from the latest scandals to assail us. Is there any hope for us?

A small Child was born into such a world on the First Christmas night - and angels sang of peace on earth. He is coming right here to ourselves this Christmas Night, with the very same message of peace and love to share among us.

But remember - and this is important - He is not just the image in the crib, nor restricted to be the family friend we visit in the Church once a week. That infant Jesus is knocking at our front door, asking to be allowed in as a family member, who lives in our home, has a place at our table, has an opinion on family decisions, is called on to heal family rows, whispering all the time, "Remember, I want to be here too, and if you let me, I will infuse this family with joy."

I have a few simple rules which bring peace and serenity. They do not guarantee material riches, but rather riches in spirit. And remember the rules are for everybody, young and adult. "I love you always, whoever you are, wherever you are, whether you please me or hurt me."

May the peace of Christ ever dwell in your homes, may the angels of God protect you, and may the Holy Family of Bethlehem be your model and inspiration, and bless you with joy pressed down and flowing over for Christmas 1994.

Dean O'Kane P.P.

~~to this time this time this time~~

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Parishioners,

On your behalf I would like to address a special Christmas message to our Dean. Your illness was a cause of great concern to us all. We are so happy to see you back in our midst. Truth is, the place just wasn't the same without you. Our earnest wish for you is good health and happiness in 1995.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Finbarr and Fr. John for their dedication and hard work among us. We appreciate them very much.

To Sister Ursula, whose work is mostly done quietly behind the scenes, thank you too from all of us. We are indeed fortunate to have such a Parish Team.

To all our readers, a very happy Christmas from the bulletin team.

Sincerely,

Uise Harris



FAMILY QUIZ

1. To whom are the following attributable:

a) What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do. Truth himself speaks truly or there's nothing true.

A _____

b) O Most merciful Friend, Brother and Redeemer, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly.

A _____

c) Every day I need you Lord, but this day especially I need some extra strength to face whatever is to come.

A _____

2. If $DGJ + JAE + BHF = DDAB$ and $\frac{FXC}{J} = \frac{GA}{G}$, what is $\frac{A}{G}$?

Note: Give a number from 1 to 9 to the letters. The letter I which is not included has the number 0. Note also that the letters are not multiplied. BID could be 601.

A _____

3. Mr. A: "My watch is ten minutes slow and I think it is five minutes fast. Your (Mr.B) watch is five minutes fast and you think it is ten minutes show. We plan to catch a train that leaves at four o'clock. Who gets there first?"

A _____

4. You went into your kitchen and found you had left the water running in the sink and it was rapidly covering the floor. There was a mop, a bucket, a large towel, a covered floor drain all convenient for you to reach. What would be the first thing you would do to prevent as much further damage taking place?

A _____

5. Insert the missing number:

7	4	9
8	6	4
6	5	?

6. Insert the missing number:

52, 36, ? 22, 21

FROM THE EDITOR

Entries into the C.P. CENTRE by 8th January





Christmas Comments



*Happy Christmas
from
Luke
Naomi
& Thomas*

A friend recently confessed how much he hated "making Christmas for the children". The rush, the fuss and the stress had taken the good out of it. I identified with his distress and we remembered how much more enjoyable it was when somebody else made it all happen for us.

One way of dealing with it would be to opt out, refuse to participate in the fuss and preparations and tell the children that we were going to avoid the materialism and dwell on the real meaning. But then I thought about this meaning and I wanted to celebrate. I had begun to feel the comfort and joy of knowing that, because of the first Christmas, I have a lifelong companion in Christ and no burden rests completely on my shoulders.

So I shall strive to keep up with the fuss and the stress and somewhere in the process I will drink good cheer and genuinely celebrate, and somewhere else in the process I will find a moment to marvel at the greatness of the event. Hopefully, overall in the process the children will have Christmas "made" for them so that they too can experience these dilemmas later on.

THOMAS

ADVENT, a time of waiting for the coming of Christ, has been overshadowed by a crisis in our political life and in the life of the Church.

As I write, a political leader has fallen and we do not have a government. The cases of paedophile priests and religious in the headlines are only the tip of the iceberg, we are told.

We feel shame and anger. There is a longing to hit out, to punish.

John, in his gospel, recounts the story of the woman taken in the act of adultery. The Jews wished to stone her to death. But Jesus invited the sinless among them to throw the first stone. They all left the scene.

We need to be careful with our anger and with our emotions generally. There's enough hurt out there already.

I wish you all the joy of Christ's coming among us. LUKE



An Advent missalette reflection made a deep impression on me. At the time, in the wake of scandal, hurt and outrage were frequently being expressed. I started to read the reflection in a routine fashion, but its opening words shone out, demanding full attention:

"For the grace to forgive, Lord, I pray.

To see beyond the words or deeds of another, to see the grace of your love within them."

This Christmas, as we celebrate the unimaginable greatness of God who became human and suffered, may we, by this grace, learn to follow His ways.

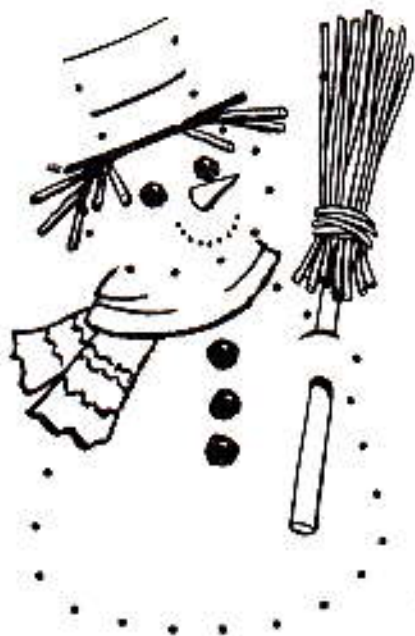
Happy Christmas!

NAOMI

Happy Christmas

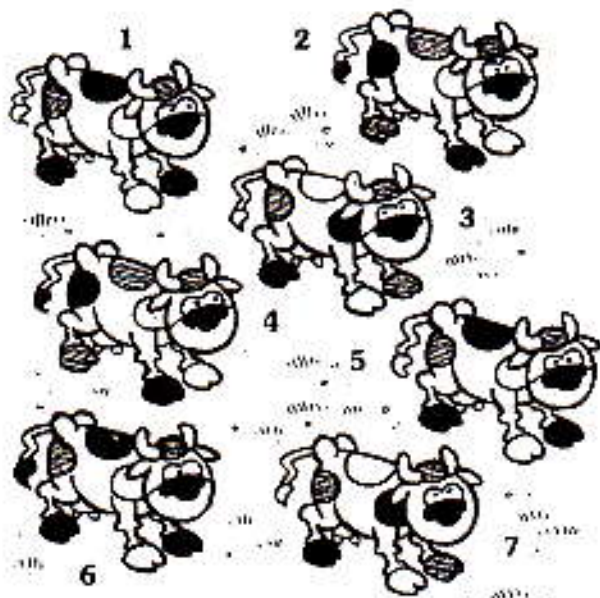


Follow the dots



ODD ONE OUT

Which is the odd one out?



Now colour

the picture





Teenage Quiz



1. Which American rock group released an album titled 'Monster'?

A _____

2. Which Irish athlete won the European Cross Country Championship earlier this month?

A _____

3. Who was Ace Ventura : Pet Detective in the film of the same name?

A _____

4. What year saw the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War?

A _____

5. In which American city is the next Olympics to be staged?

A _____

6. Name the two winners of last month's by-election in Cork.

7. Who won the Ladies Singles title at Wimbledon this yer?

A _____

8. For which football club does Ronnie Whelan now play?

A _____

9. Which song was the theme from "Four Weddings & a Funeral" and who sang it?

A _____

10. Who is the American Vice-President?

A _____

11. Which author wrote "Of Mice and Men"?

A _____

12. Who won an overdue Oscar for his role in "Scent of a Woman"?

A _____

13. Which author wrote "The Picture of Dorian Gray"?

A _____

14. To which county does Achill Island belong?

A _____

15. Who is the Irish rugby captain?

A _____

16. To which political party does Waterford T.D. Brendan Howlin belong?

A _____

17. Which famous rock singer died in May of this year, the night he and his band were due to play in Dublin?

A _____

18. Who was Forrest Gump?

A _____

19. What is the name of the bar in Coronation Street?

A _____

20. Who manages Cork City F.C.?

A _____

Try to answer as many questions as possible. Completed entries to the C.P. Centre by Jan 8th 1995.

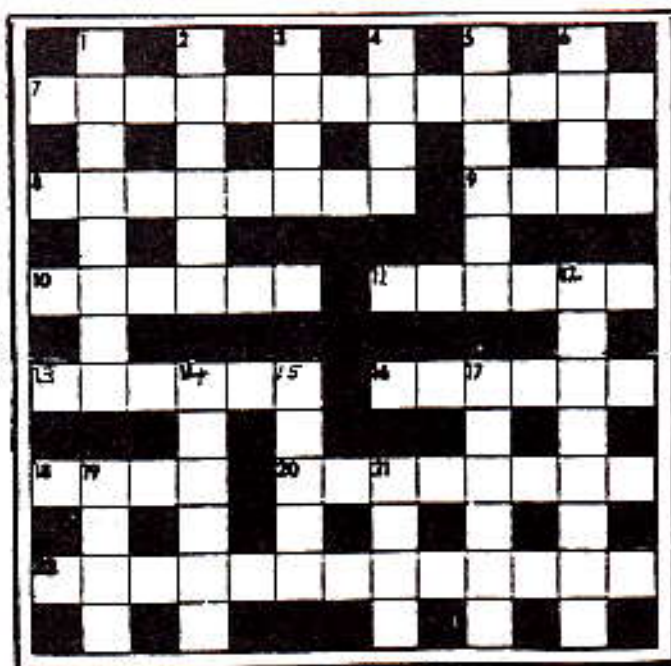
Name _____

Address _____

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CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

7. We saw his star as it rose and have come.. Mt.2:2 (2,2,3,6)
8. A Roman hat brings about change. Is somebody running? (8)
9. Fine with this - it's a party. (4)
10. Carl, so affected that he bursts into song. (6)
11. Angels never do! (4,2)
13. Reach for the highest point. (6)
16. Sounds like de ting used to catch fish. We'll discuss it. (6)
18. If you sued for a change you might get these. (4)
20. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him... Mt.1:23 (8)
22. A piece of good furtune, but certainly not heaven sent. (6,3,4)

Down

1. Poor mixed up Don's away at the present time. (8)
2. Handle this when it's hot and you have trouble. (6)
3. One of thought's parental parents. (4)
4. Avoid this clue. (4)
5. Takes me a long time to get these pictures. (6)
6. Story character who likes people - yummy! (4)
12. To be discovered so is to be found out indeed. (2,3,3)
14. Sounds like where to find poteen, put in drop by drop. (6)
15. Behead the person in 22 and discover what he promotes. (5)
17. You'll have to make a botch of this one. (6)
19. Employed by little Edward from America. (4)
21. Look out into the courtyard, the cat wants to come in. (4)

E.H.

Entries into the C. P. Centre by the 8th January



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

GREECE

Children knock on every door Christmas morning to bring the "Good News" to each house. They sing Christmas carols, *Kalanda*, to the accompaniment of rhythm band instruments. *Christopsomo*, Christ bread, is baked in various shapes and decorated with symbols of family life. Before eating it, the father makes the sign of the cross with a knife.

WEST INDIES

In Trinidad it is the custom to exchange or give what one has, e.g., hospitality, some talent, but not a material gift.

MEXICO

Small parades are held. People go from house to house carrying statues or pictures of Mary and Joseph. At each house they knock and ask for a place to stay. According to tradition, they are refused at each house until they are finally admitted at the last house with the words, "Enter, Pilgrims." This parade is called a *posada*.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Children sleep on straw under a table as a reminder of Jesus' humble birth.

BAVARIA

Young boys dress as Magi and visit houses in town telling the Christmas story.