

Wednesday December 25th 1996



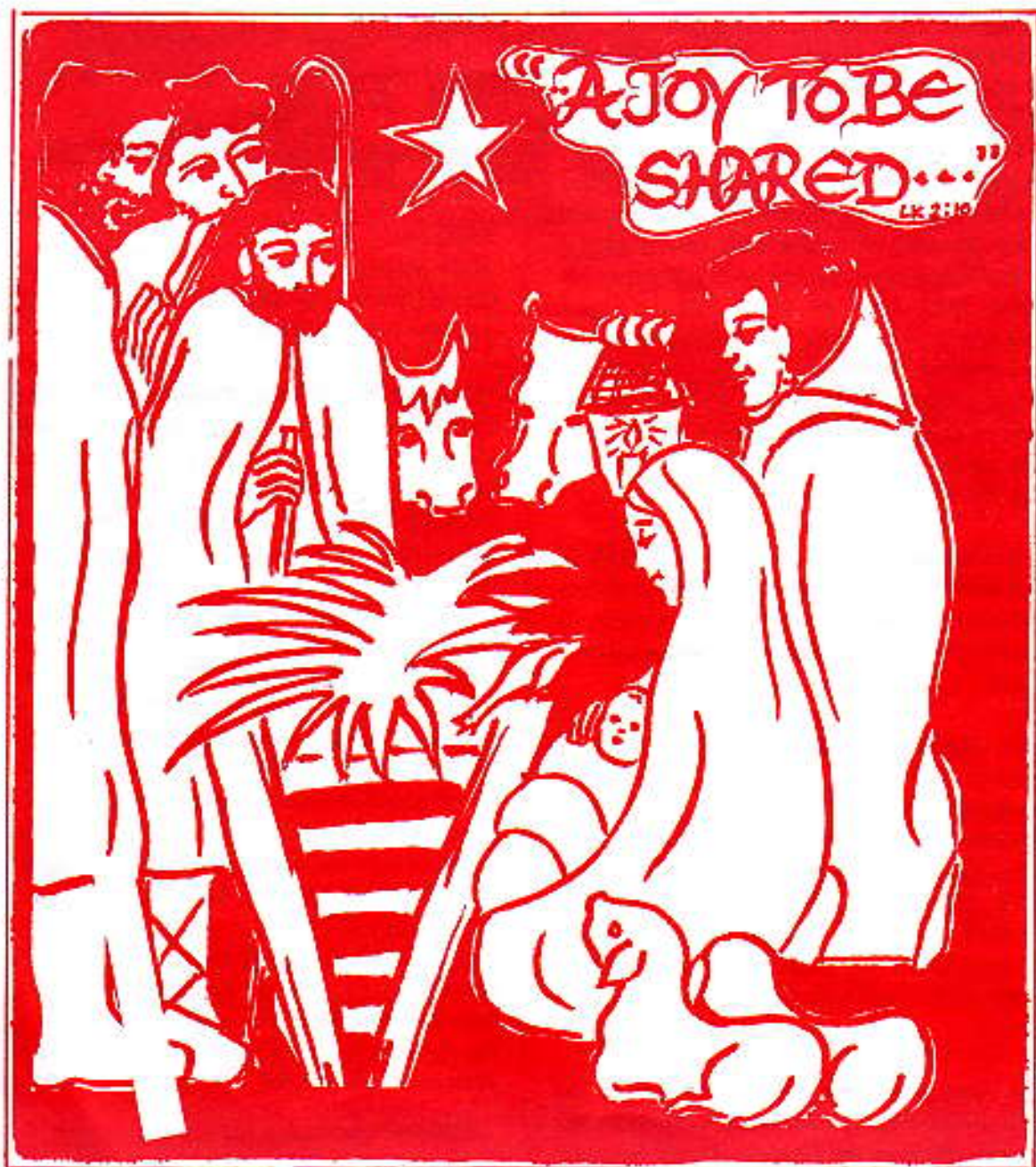
No. 490

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Christmas Day



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
CENNEHY'S CROSS, CO. WK



Courtesy of the Poor Clares.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Home for Christmas

I suppose everybody has fond memories of Christmas - especially Christmases from youth. I can recall vividly the anticipation of going home for Christmas as a teenager in board school. As the old Bandon train chugged its way slowly over the Viaduct and up to Waterfall one of my companions would keep repeating in unison with wheels on the rails "You'll never get there, You'll never get there, You'll never get there". As the engine quickened down hill for Ballineaspaig he changed the rhythm :- "I knew you would, I knew you would, I knew you would." But the real thrill was walking in home - meeting with the rest of the family - the fire was high and our mother had something special ready.

I still marvel at the sacrifices people made to get home for Christmas - long planes or sea journeys - often followed by crowded train or bus trips. But its worth it all when you get there.

But, come to think of it, wasn't travel always part of Christmas. Joseph and Mary made a long and difficult journey from Nazereth to Bethlehem. The Sheperds journeyed there too. The three wise men travelled all the way from the East to find the Infant King and present their gifts. But the most important journey of all was made by the Son of God - who came down from heaven to be born in a stable.

He came to his own and his own people did not accept him. This must be the saddest line in the whole of the Gospel. It still happens. He came that we might have life - that we might have peace - that we might know what

love is. Let us open our hearts to him this Christmas and share his love with everyone we meet. And may the Christ Child bless you as only He can.

Have a lovely Christmas

Aennis O'Connor P.P.



*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride
on a one horse open sleigh!*

This must be the main Christmas song that springs to mind when one begins to think about Christmas. As I write this I think about the hustle and bustle that is in the city, people shopping and buying presents. Christmas is a time of joy and fun, and in the midst of all the rushing that seems now to be part of Christmas, I think about all the Christmas songs that really help to give me the Christmas spirit when I hear them. They help you to forget the problems of everyday life, and calm you down for the festive season. Songs like *Stop the Cavalry* and *Peace on Earth* remind us of peaceful times in history and give us hope for the future. May God look over this island of ours and keep Peace and Forgiveness to the forefront for everyone in the future.

On behalf of all the bulletin team, I take this opportunity to wish all the parishioners (and returned emigrants) peace, happiness and joy for this festive season, with best wishes for a prosperous year ahead.

Colm Linehan

Colm Linehan
Editor - Ballineaspaig Bulletin



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

Christmas Media Comment by Luke

How many ways can we say "Happy Christmas" ? How many ways can we celebrate Christmas ? I am forever touched by the wide eyed innocence of children as they gaze at the crib figures in the Church on Christmas morning. Somehow the whole world-shattering event seems to strike them as they concentrate on the Infant Jesus and let their gaze wander to take in the rest of the scene before them. And their marvelling at the drama somehow transfers itself to us adults too.

Perhaps the same innocence isn't so apparent when they gaze on the offerings from Santa later in the morning, but maybe their conditioning here comes from the adult world where materialism reigns supreme.

The celebration of Christmas take many forms

too, beginning well in advance of Christmas. How many parties can be fitted in ? How many expensive Christmas presents must be bought ?

Its upsetting to be forced to remember that many, many people will 'celebrate' Christmas on meagre incomes, or living in poor housing, or on the streets. It helps a little to know that the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and of the Simon Community and of SHARE and others are there to ease their plight - and ease our consciences ! I did remember to contribute, didn't I ? There are so many things to remember, aren't there ?

So - Christmas is here. We've survived all the hype and its time to relax and it enjoy it all. Have a very Peaceful and Joyous Christmas. Perhaps we can all spare a thought and a prayer for those who, for any reason, might not be in a position to enjoy it. We remember, too, those in hospital or sick and all who care for them. May the Christ whose birthday we celebrate be close to us all this Christmas.



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

by ROY MITCHELL



TEENAGE QUIZ

1. In 1879, Wyatt Earp kept the peace in Tombstone, Arizona but was he a sheriff or a marshal ?

2. Bill Sykes, Fagin and the Artful Dodger are all characters from what Dicken's Novel ?

3. How many times have Nottingham Forest won the European Cup ?

4. Is *Tm* the chemical symbol for thulium or thorium ?

5. "*Money's too tight to mention*", "*Jericho*" and "*Holding back the years*" were hits for which pop group ?

6. To what category of rock does limestone belong ?

7. In which Connaught county is Crossmolina ?

8. How many King Charles of England have there been ?

9. Which great Irish mythological figure was known as Setanta in his youth ?

10. True or False :- Revelations is the last book of the Old Testament ?

11. How many times has Ivan Lendl won the Wimbledon Singles Championship ?

12. What type of creature is an oriole ?

13. Which TV detective has an assistant called Sergeant Lewis ?

14. What type of voting system is used to elect members to the Dail ?

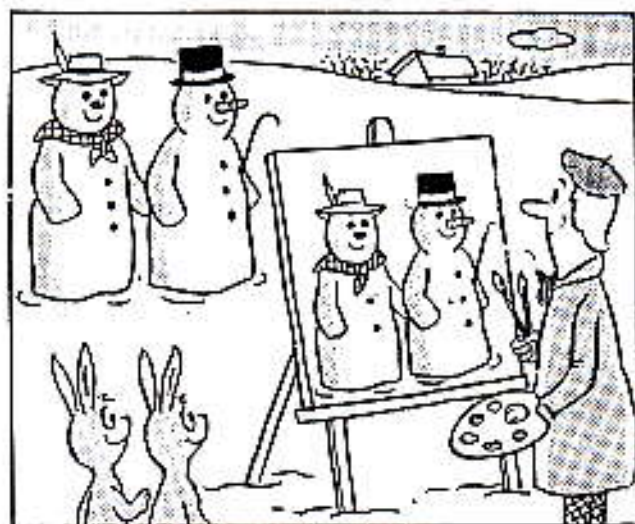
15. Which is the 3rd largest Ocean in the world?

Name _____

Address _____

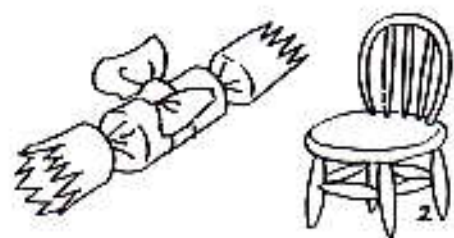
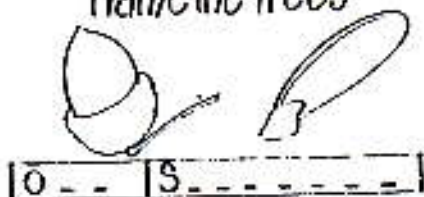
Entries to the CP Centre by January 12th 1997.





The painter has used Mr and Mrs Snowman as models for his picture, but the picture is not quite finished as some details are missing. Try to find out how many things are missing in the picture.

Name the Trees



1	2	3	4	5



MEMORISE



STUDY ALL THE THINGS ON THIS PAGE WHILE COUNTING TO TWELVE - THEN SHUT THE BOOK AND SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN REMEMBER

FAMILY QUIZ

Q 1. My watch is ten minutes slow and I think it is five minutes fast. Your watch is five minutes fast and you think it is ten minutes slow. We plan to meet to catch a train that leaves at four o'clock (4 o'clock). Who gets there first ?

Q 2. In a room there is a T.D., a Banker, a Lawyer and a Doctor. Their names are Michael, Thomas, Cornelius, and Joseph. (not in the same order). Michael and the Banker were on bad terms with Cornelius, but Thomas was on the best terms with the Doctor. Cornelius was related to the Lawyer and the T.D. was a good friend of Thomas and the Doctor. Pair up the profession with the name :

Michael	T.D.
Thomas	Banker
Cornelius	Lawyer
Joseph	Doctor

Q 3. You wake up in a pitch black tent on your camping holiday. You have no light. In your duffle bag there are six black socks and six white socks all mixed up together. You want to pick out a matching pair. What is the smallest number of socks you can take out of the bag and be sure of getting a pair of the same colour.

Q 4. A Deep Sea fishing boat is lying in the harbour. Over the side hangs a rope ladder with its end touching the water. Rungs on the ladder are 300mm apart and the Tide rises at 200mm an hour. At the end of six hours, how many rungs will be covered ?

Q 5. There are six apples in a basket, and there are six people in the room. Each person

in the room gets an apple and yet there is still one apple in the basket. Explain ?

Q 6. The number of eggs in a basket doubles every minute. The basket is full of eggs in an hour. When was the basket half full ?

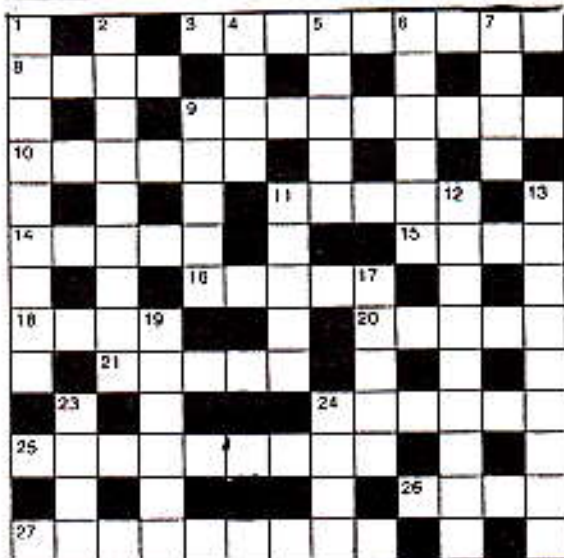
Q 7. A monkey is at the bottom of a 30 metre well. Each day he jumps three metres and slips back two. When will the monkey reach the top of the well, ?

Name _____

Address _____

Entries (no matter how few you answer !) to be submitted to the Editor of the Bulletin not later than Thursday 6th January 1997.





Across

- 3. The glory ... shone around them. Luke 2 V.10. (2,3,4)
- 8. An eminent person in our parish coming from Aden. (4)
- 9. Santa sits about for - maybe Rudolf. (9)
- 10. Brought on by sales fever, at the doors. (6)
- 11. Boaz technically embraces one of a powerful Mexican race. (5)
- 14. Utter rubbish, still much loved by many Cork people. (5)
- 15. Talk wildly, associated with dubious parties. (4)
- 16. Joseph got up and taking the child and his mother with him left that ... for Egypt. Mt 2 V.15. (5)
- 18. ... that hurts! (4)
- 20. No, not this one. (5)
- 21. Of course, none of OUR parishioners would get to be one over this! (5)
- 24. Is resting on one of these being a bit smug? (6)
- 25. Christmas goodies found in a spice mine. (5,4)
- 26. It's exhausting, you and I having to carry all of this. (4)
- 27. Original Christmas visitors. (9)

Down

- 1. Definitely more than a passing fancy. (9)
- 2. Sounds like a bit of a lock, but it's really a cover-up. (9)
- 4. Plenty more out there for those who are disappointed. (4)
- 5. If you like this produce, the good news is there are 56 more available. (5)
- 6. A matter of pride for cats and dogs, but NOT for people. (6)
- 7. Run one of these around someone and you outclass him. (4)
- 9. Shane turns so in fear. (5)
- 11. Having gnats around could cause such feeling. (5)
- 12. Patroness of the younger students in our parish. (9)
- 13. Rest heals around having no pity. (9)
- 17. Goat turns to ancient Roman dress. (4)
- 19. A brief interruption not to be taken seriously. (6)
- 23. Radishes contain something to put them on. (4)
- 24. Take this and you're away ahead. (4)

Entries to the C. P. Centre by January 12



THOUGHTS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day

The light has come into our world. The darkness is shattered, forever. As we gather this holy day with family and friends, let us see within each person the brilliant light of the Christ child reflected in each one's face.



Joy! Love Is Born

Thursday, December 26: St. Stephen
Like Stephen, we need to have the courage to live the Christian message every day of our life.

Friday, December 27: St. John the Evangelist

St. John says, "God is love, and he who remains in love, remains in God."



Saturday, December 28: Holy Innocents

O little children, thank you. Your death allowed Jesus to save me.

Sunday, December 29: The Holy Family

We look to Joseph, Mary and Jesus to give us guidance as we struggle to live as a family.

Monday, December 30

In today's Gospel when God appeared as this little boy, Anna recognized him. I know, the Lord is in my life too. Help me to recognize you!



Tuesday, December 31

"In the beginning was the Word, ...and the Word was God." - John 1:1

Maybe I can begin this year with the Word and make this new year a true year of the Lord.

Wednesday, January 1: Mary, Mother of God

Mary is the first disciple, the first bearer of the Good News, Jesus, to a world so in need of her child.

Thursday, January 2

"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord," - John 1:23

O Lord, help me to hear your voice in my wilderness, my desert, and give in to your calling.

Friday, January 3

"Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders." - Ps. 97:1

During this Christmas season we pause to sing a new song, to light the flame of our faith again, a flame we keep burning throughout the year.

Saturday, January 4

"God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time he has spoken to us through his Son." Heb. 1:1-2

Lord, help us to hear your Word.

Sunday, January 5

The Magi are travelling to Bethlehem, bearing their gifts. I want to give you my gifts: my heart, my dreams, my moments of joy and pain, but even more I give you my love and praise this day and every day of the new year.

