



Saturday 25 December 1999

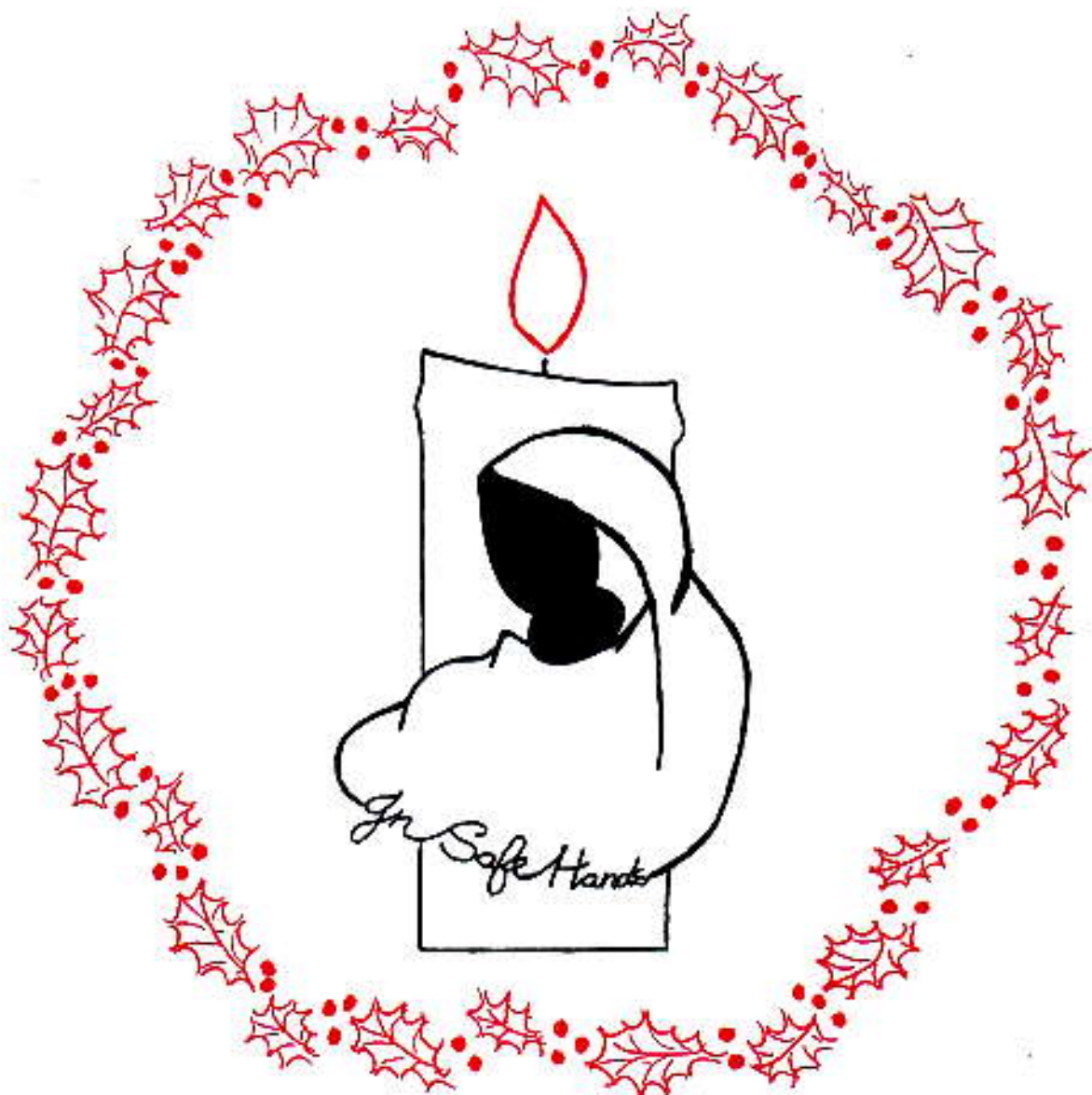
No. 616

Ballineaspais Bulletin

CHRISTMAS DAY



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK.



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

**CHRISTMAS BELONGS TO
BELIEVERS**

AS THE year's biggest shopping spree comes to an end, the Gospel call to prepare a way for the Lord can hardly be heard, if heard at all. But the call is clear. God will fill us with His peace if there is room in our lives for Him, if we straighten out the way. Today is the day to straighten the way, to be reconciled with our brother and sister, to break the shell of unforgiveness in our hearts and speak to those who have not been spoken to for a long time, to risk the rebuff of the hardened, to be a first mover in forgiveness, realising that even the longest journey must begin with the first step, to be willing to say that friendship is important enough to be suffered for, to believe enough in oneself and in others so as to have the heart to start again. Today is the day to prepare for peace among us by asking and receiving forgiveness from each other. Today, God offers forgiveness unconditionally to each other and enables us to forgive ourselves as well as others.

We must not abandon Christmas to merrymaking and money spinning. Christmas belongs to believers, to those who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary, to reconcile us to one another and

to the Father. This is why He came. This is why there is Christmas. We must believe it. Christmas has been stolen from so many, young and old. The danger is that even believers will abandon their birthright and leave it to the scavengers who despoil every occasion and all treasures for their own enrichment. The core treasure of Christmas is awe-filled faith. Faith needs time and space to blossom and grow. It is easily crowded out when there is much to be done, so much that will pass away. Faith is the entry point to what will never pass away. Christmas is to make space and time for the God of our faith who shares in our world, a world He created for us.

Glory be to God in the highest, on earth peace to men who are God's friends. Happy Christmas.

*Happy
Christmas
to all
parishioners!*

Cover designed and drawn by Aoife O'Sullivan and Mary Jo Murphy, Mount Mercy College.
Border by Carmel O'Shea.



Christmas Wishes from the Editor

This is the end of a year that seems to have flown by..... It doesn't seem that long since we were celebrating Christmas and thinking about what we would do next year for the Millennium. I think most peoples plans tend to have changed since then, and spending the night in a pub seems to be less and less the place to be. I personally am glad in this change in the mentality of people. We all have the free will to do as we please, but many of the celebration nights charge so much that you could feed a family for a week on the cost. This has lead to most people spending New Year in the company of friends and family - which I think is the right way to share this special time that can only happen once in anyone's life. It was the decision I made last year, that I wanted to be with the people who are the most important in my life and celebrate it together.

The next millennium was always seen as a futuristic time - with people living on different planets and robots around to do the work for us. Technology has made a huge change in our lives, but thankfully, we haven't been replaced by the robots yet! Only time will tell if Y2K is as big a problem as they make it out to be. Just in case it does cause problems, make the most of life while you can!

On behalf of all the people who work with me on the Bulletin, the editorial teams,

the parish secretary, the printers, the folders and the distribution teams I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas with best wishes for the new Millennium.

Colm Linehan

Colm Linehan
Bulletin Editor

Christmas Thoughts by Ruth

I often feel uneasy at Christmas. It's the season of loving and giving, and we all do our best. We avoid family squabbles and try to be nice to each other. We contribute generously to charity collections; it eases our conscience; we feel good about giving.

I light the Christmas Candle on Christmas Eve to show that if Mary and Joseph passed this way tonight I would accept them into my home. And then I get uneasy, because I know I wouldn't. I can't stop thinking of that immigrant couple who spent a couple of weeks on Dennehy's Cross a few months ago. Sure, I bought the Big Issues from them to ease my conscience. But what happend to them? Where did they go? In an affluent parish like ours, why wasn't something done for them? Why didn't I do something for them? Will they have a Happy Christmas?

Teenager Quiz

1. Telecom Eireann changed its name this year – what is it now known as?

2. Many computers today say they have a DVD included – what does DVD stand for?

3. Who was the main artist who played at Slane Castle in August 1999?

4. What city in Ireland has a monument called The Treaty Stone?

5. Which rugby province was captained by Nick Popplewell for the first time in August 1992?

6. What street in Dublin is featured on the front of Boyzone's Album "By Request"?

7. One of the Spice Girls married a soccer player – who married who?

8. Which Dutch painter do we associate with the works *Sunflowers* and *Irises*?

9. Is starboard the right or left hand side of a ship?

10. In what Ulster county would you find Crossmaglen?

11. Which type of triangle has two sides of equal length?

12. How many roods are in an acre?

13. *The Fly*, *Beetlejuice* and *Thelma and Louise* all feature the talents of which actress?

14. What kind of creature is a gecko?

15. Which Irish airport was opened on 16th October 1961?

Name _____

Address _____

Entries should be sent to the C.P. Centre by January 9th 2000.



Look at the snowman - where could he be going? Decide where and make up a story!



LOOK UP, DOWN, FORWARD BACKWARD AND DIAGONALLY TO FIND WORDS IN THE LIST BELOW.



SCARF COAT EAR MUFFS
GLOVES BOOTS JACKET
HAT MITTENS WELLIES

FILL IN

4 LETTERS
BOOK
BOWL
COMB
FILE
OOLS
SCS
TIES

5 LETTERS
CHESS
CIGAR
SCARF
SOCKS
TRAYS

3 LETTERS
CLD COIN

8 LETTERS
SLIPPERS

9 LETTERS
NAMEPLATE

FILL each of the words in the word list into the puzzle diagram. We have shown you how by filling in the first word.



The animal's Christmas is an old Celtic Story - Try and find out about it.

MIGHTY MIND BENDERS

Once again, the Christmas puzzle page is presented to suit all ages. As is wont, a valuable prize will be presented to the first correct solution submitted. Closing date is 9th January to be sent to the Parish Office.

1. A motorist drives from A to B at a speed of 60 m.p.h. He returns from B to A at a speed of 50 m.p.h. What is his average speed over the two journeys?

2. What is considered to be the oldest part of the Island of Ireland (clue: it could be an island).

3. Among the assertions made in this problem there are three errors. What are they

- (a) $2 + 2 = 4$.
- (b) $4 \div \frac{1}{2} = 2$
- (c) $3 \frac{1}{5} \times 3 \frac{1}{8} = 10$
- (d) $7 - (-4) = 11$
- (e) $-10(6 - 6) = -10$.

4. Mr. Dunnion stayed in a Cork Hotel for the night. He paid £15 for the room (a £10 note and a £5 note). The Receptionist discovered that Mr. Dunnion was overcharged by £5 and a porter was sent to Mr. Dunnion's room with five £1 notes. The porter was not too honest and he gave Mr. Dunnion only three £1 notes and kept two for himself. Mr. Dunnion now has paid £12 for his room and the porter has £2 in his pocket. This accounts for £14. Where is the missing £1?

5. In a certain Irish village there lives 800 women. 3% of them wear one earring. Of the remaining 97% half are wearing two earrings and half are not wearing any earring. How many earrings all together are being worn by the women?

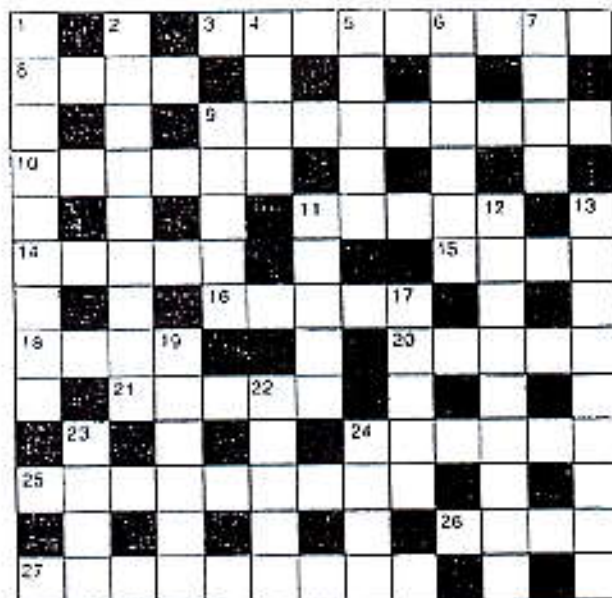
6. In a car race six cars are lined up behind each other. No. 12 is two places in front of No. 3 who is two places in front of No. 21. No. 7 is behind both No. 11 and No. 3 but in front of No. 21. No. 8 is in front of No. 21 but behind No. 11. What is the finishing order of the cars if car No. 21 moves forward two positions and car No. 8 moves back 3 places and car No. 3 moves forward two places and car No. 11 moves back two places and car No. 12 moves forward one place?

7. Move from square to touching square - including diagonals - to discover the name of a City in Europe.

p	h	n	g
c	e	a	g
p	o	e	n

8. If the owner of the Mercedes Benz is Dave, the owner of the Nissan is Simon, the owner of the Porsche is Colin, who are the owners of the following cars from people listed:
Cars - Toyota, Rover, Jaguar, Fiat, Honda.
Names - Nigel, Irene, Vera, Oliver, Ursula.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

3. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel ___ had told him to do. Mt 1 V.24. (2,3,4)
8. We have been given permission to call Him by this name. (4)
9. Dope calls for a change, and fell down. (9)
10. It seems this canine can be consumed, but not eaten cold. (3,3)
11. A book by Ronald contains a great English poet. (5)
14. Sounds like beams, to elevate. (5)
15. You need to be very smart for this one. (4)
16. Most welcome seasonal visitor. (5)
18. Encourage some nasty business, like wager. (4)
20. Memory joggers, shorter than letters, associated with keys. (5)
21. Shoot here. (within a reasonable distance). (5)
24. The value of which is far exceeded by health. (6)
25. 1999 innovation designed for a quick getaway. (3,6)

26. She was with Jack on the way up when disaster struck. (4)
27. Face up to him or lose the battle. (9)

Down

1. He arrived here recently from the waters. (6,3)
2. Rain beats about the one who does without. (9)
4. An occupant of the throat creating hushed tones. (4)
5. Ivy's traditional Christmas partner. (5)
6. This little computer must be a great pet! (6)
7. It can take some of the wind out of your sails. (4)
9. There was an outbreak of these along the Model Farm Road in recent times. (5)
11. It's the festive season, lots of goodies around, but don't do this! (5)
12. I log Santa for a sentimental yearning. (9)
13. "What will ___ turn out to be", they wondered. Luke 1 V.66 (4,5)
17. Who told the shepherds? (5)
19. Tittle's companion in chit-chat. (6)
22. Units of inheritance, sounds like the young person's gear. (5)
23. You could keep it, hold it above water, allow things to go to it, bang it against a brick wall... (4)
24. With tear it's deterioration. (4)

Entries, please, to C.P. Centre by
9 January 2000.



Who among us will celebrate Christmas right?
Those who finally lay down all their power, honor, and prestige,
all their vanity, pride, and self-will
at the manger,
those who stand by the lowly and let God alone be exalted,
those who see in the child in the manger the glory of God
precisely in this lowliness.
Those who say, along with Mary,
"The Lord has regarded my low estate.
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."



*Lord, welcome among us;
and in welcoming you,
we welcome everyone as a child of God.*

The fact that we are allowed to live
as real human beings
and to love the real person beside us
is founded solely on the incarnation of God,
on the unfathomable love of God for humankind.

CHRISt is born: give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven: receive him!
Christ is now on earth: exalt him!
O you earth, sing to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been
glorified!

Had Jesus not lived,
our life, in spite of all the other people
whom we know, admire, and love,
would be meaningless.

The reason for God's love of man or woman
lies not in man or woman, but only in God himself.

BECAUSE of his boundless love, Jesus became what we
are that he might make us to be what he is.