



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Christmas 2001



No. 700

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENMEAH'S CROSS, CORK

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO THEM.



By Gillian O'Halloran

THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ROUND THEM.



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

SEASONAL SURPRISES

Surprises form the cornerstone of the Christmas season. Certainly, the arrival of the Son of God as a member of the human family took the whole world by surprise and continues to do so: so much so, that many people who celebrate at Christmas do not realise the awesome wonder of what happened at Bethlehem and continues to be celebrated on the birthday of Jesus. The contemporaries of Jesus expected a charismatic leader, a saviour of some sort, but what actually happened was so extraordinary that they refused to really take it on board. We can be so like them in many ways, but we have been given an insight into the mystery of a God who loves so totally that he gives himself to those he loves by sharing their human nature. The Christmas surprise is not only that Jesus was born of Mary, but that, in turn, we share in the divine life of God himself. We are adopted siblings of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We are blessed to believe this and to nurture it in prayer.

We believe, Lord, help the little faith we have.

The other Christmas surprise is that the total giving of our Christmas God evokes such extraordinary love and generosity among true believers. Worldwide, at home and abroad, millions choose the Jesus option. They choose to make room at the inn of their hearts and their homes for the needy and the incapacitated, for the outcast and the rejected, for those without hope or home. They are instruments of reconciliation and peace reaching out across hostile uncharted relationships.

The power of example is irresistible. The

spirit of Jesus enables us to imitate his example beyond our wildest dreams. His expectations for us are to imitate his style.

The real surprise for us and for the world is when we do just that.

May our Christmas be full of surprises of faith, hope, love and prayer for ourselves and all whose lives we touch. May the Lord protect, enrich and inspire us as we celebrate together the birthday of our brother Jesus.

Tom Clancy



Our
EDITOR
writes

Dear Reader,

One of the first Bulletins in 2001 had a photograph of our tree planting – a symbol of growth. That growth continued throughout the year with our many contributors – the series on the Lord's Prayer, articles from the Meditation Group, the many comments and Book Reviews from Madelaine Nerson MacNamara, articles from Arthur O'Callaghan, Pat Boylan, J.F. and our two young contributors Darren and Dan on the gift of Life. Claire Horgan showed us that gift in art. We have enjoyed the valuable learning experience from the Bible Corner. We are grateful to them all.

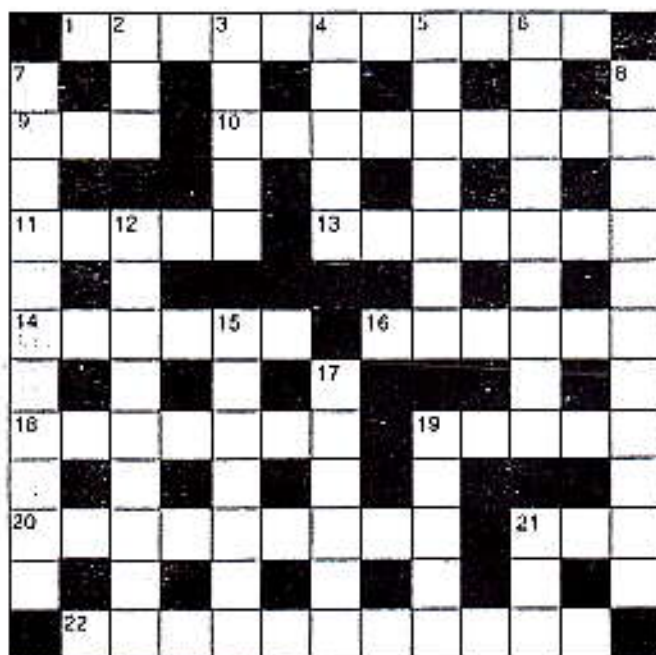
We owe a deep gratitude to our Parish Team for their inspiring words to us throughout the year; Fr. Tom Clancy for his help, support and advice.

On behalf of the Bulletin Team I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,
Irene Connolly



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Across

1. (Joseph set out) to David's town called Bethlehem since he was of (Luke 2 (6,5))
9. Food for really bad actors (3)
10. Last eco in change marks the seashore. (9)
11. Often offered for one's thoughts, but about to become obsolete! (5)
13. This one is obvious to the eye. (7)
14. Moved at a rate of 24 mm per step. (6)
16. Seven-year-olds get to use it, they say. (6)
18. True set mixed up, yet given responsibility. (7)
19. An opinion held, whichever way you look at it. (5)
20. Ark dances thrown into turmoil. (9)
21. The purpose is to hit straight. (3)
22. Not even Solomon in all royal robes was one of them. L.k.12. (New Jerusalem Bible) (7,4)

Down

2. A limb some people like to chance. (3)
3. If your feet get so, you'll want to be on your travels. (5)
4. Put mate with this and the game gets stuck. (5)
5. If all your peers have died, does this mean to reside in the open air? (7)
6. Beware of the slippery slope! Take this first. (3,7)
7. They help themselves instead of being served - but what a weight they carry! (11)
8. Moment of truth, a very difficult period. (7,4)
12. Court Ann L. anew, by night. (9)
15. Take out a passage from a book. (7)
17. Why the heck let part of this distract the unfortunate speaker? (6)
19. Coming and going, ebbing and flowing. (5)
21. You needed a partner to get into this ancient craft. (3)



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*Bethlehem
I hear the name
and for an instant
it evokes
memories of childhood,
of Christmas expectation,
of wonders in the night,
of stars and shepherds,
of kings and angels
of eternity bursting
into time,
of heaven rejoicing,
and God
so very near.*

*Bethlehem,
I hear the name
on television news,
place of pilgrimage
become a battleground,
symbol of hatred
and division,
Royal David's city
raped and wounded,
bullet-ridden,
no wonders in the night,
no stars, no angels,
and God
so far away.*

*Bethlehem
then and now.
How can we cross
the bridge*

*between the two?
How reconcile
the "little town"
that cradled
the Word made flesh
with all this chaos
death and fear?
Bethlehem,
microcosm
of a world gone mad
and God so far away.*

*Bethlehem,
House of Bread,
birthplace of One
who called Himself
the Bread of Life.
Bread for the world,
broken for us,
and for all the Bethlehems
that ever were
or are.
He Himself
becomes the bridge
and once again I see,
but now with adult eyes
eternity bursting
into time,
heaven rejoicing
and God
so very near.*

Rev. Ruth Patterson

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 22nd: After 6.15 p.m. Mass;
Christmas Eve : 12.00-1.00, 4.00-5.00 and after 6.15 p.m. Mass.

MASSES: Sunday 23rd: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15; Christmas Eve: Vigil 6.15 p.m.; Midnight Mass at 12.00; Christmas Day: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15
Stephen's Day and each weekday up to and including New Year's Day: 10 a.m.

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