

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

25th December, 2005

Christmas Day

No. 863



St. Catherine's Christmas Pageant

THANKS BE TO GOD

Welcome to our Christmas Eucharist together. Eucharist means thanksgiving so we gather to give thanks to God for the gift of His Son. He is God's Christmas gift to us, a gift that is renewed every time we celebrate the Eucharist. For believers, Eucharist is the centre piece of Christmas celebrations.

Thankfulness is an attitude of mind and heart that evokes and nurtures love. Thankfulness is that human quality that refines and strengthens genuine friendship as it awakens life-giving generosity. Without it, we regress into self-centred anxiety. Without it, there is no inner peace. Unless it is genuinely expressed in a myriad of creative ways, the gift of thankfulness itself dies. Always be thankful.

To be thankful is to be open to the appreciation of goodness, one's own and the godness of others. It is to know in one's heart how enhanced we have become through Jesus sharing in our humanity, making each of us a sister or brother of himself. To grow in thankfulness is the true peak of all human endeavour.

Christmas is a time that prompts us to be grateful to God and to others. Both strands of gratitude are present when we gather as family to share the Eucharist. In turn, the Eucharist overflows into our relationships in this season of goodwill when we express our thankfulness to all whose lives enrich our own.

Dean Denis and Father Declan join me in extending our thanks to each and every one of you as we wish you a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Born into the Ordinary

After the birth of Christ, we need not look into the extraordinary, the spectacular or the miraculous to find God. God is now found where we live - in our kitchens, at our tables, in our wounds, and in each other's faces.

That is hard to believe and always has been. When Jesus was on earth, virtually no one believed he was the Messiah, precisely because he was so ordinary, so unlike what they imagined God to be. They had expected a superstar, a king, someone who would turn the world rightfully upside down. Preaching meekness and gentleness, Jesus didn't live up to those expectations.

Things haven't changed much in two thousand years. We, like his contemporaries, are constantly looking beyond the ordinary to try to find a miraculous Christ. It is for this reason that we fly off to Fatima or Lourdes to see a spot where the Blessed Virgin might have cried, but fail to see the significance of the tears shed at our own breakfast table. We are intrigued by a Padre Pio who had the wounds of Christ on his hands, but fail to see the wounds of Christ in those suffering around us or in our own emotional and moral wounds.

We pray for visions, but seldom watch a sunset. We marvel at the gift of tongues, but are bored listening to babies. We look for Christ everywhere, except in the place where the incarnation took place: our flesh.

Love is a thing that happens in ordinary places - in kitchens, at tables, in bedrooms, in workplaces, in families, in the flesh. Through the Incarnation, God crawls into ordinary life and invites us to meet him there.

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

From the Editor

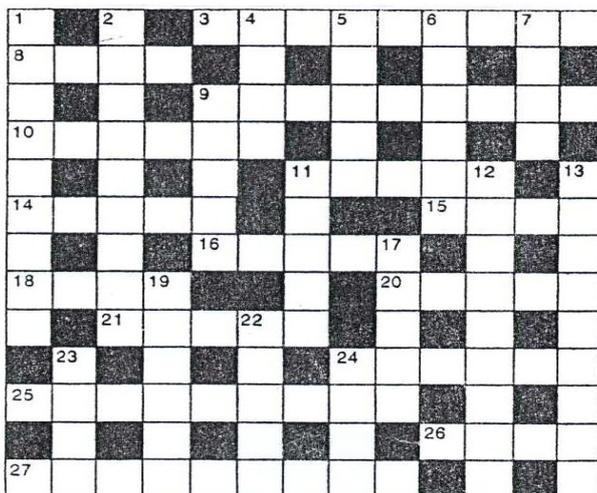


On behalf of the Bulletin's Team I wish all our readers a very happy Christmas. Thanks to all who help in the production of the Bulletin. A special thanks to those who for many years folded our former-style bulletin, and to our Distributors who see that it is delivered to your homes on the third Sunday of the month.

We are very grateful to our Parish Team for their inspiring input and to Anne, our parish secretary, for the great work she does on the Bulletin.

A very special thanks to our Parish Priest, Fr. Tom Clancy, for his advice and support.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD by Portia



Across

3. This is what you are doing. Sounds angry! (9)
8. Appropriate meals for 13 down. (4)
9. Sounds like throwing an entrance, to reprimand seriously. (9)
10. Like that building in Pisa, for instance. (6)
11. On the record, just for one year. (5)
14. Very warm with the Spanish and stay here. (5)
15. This one might catch you. (4)
16. Seasonal donor. Comes through the air. (5)
18. Directed the ball, sounds like stood in line. (4)

20. Comprehend, get hold of this. (5)
21. Up before these and it's great commotion. (5)
24. Subside and get your accounts in order. (6)
25. Disturb the normal arrangement of ideal cost. (9)
26. Lend this and make yourself useful. (4)
27. This one's child has far to go. (9)

Down

1. Random test - looking for measles? (9)
2. Day the bills arrive? No, something much more exciting. (9)
4. Dora turns around and finds a way. (4)
5. Oh dear, this fiend has no place in a church crossword! (5)
6. For the old American Indians, this was home. (6)
7. Dissemble a tier for a religious ceremony. (4)
9. Suitable accommodation for holy people - or criminals! (5)
11. Relatively feminine folks. (5)
12. "So," the Pharisees answered, "you, too, have been..." Jn.7 (3,6)
13. Early Christmas callers. (9)
17. See eye to eye and conform. (5)
19. A droll remake for currency. (6)
22. Hurried to chop up a cedar. (5)
23. Long for this one. (4)
24. Don't go - give support. (4)

Entries to Parish Office by Monday 9th January please