

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

23rd December 2007

Christmas

No. 946

Isosara in the Highest

God's Baby Gift

Just when people thought they had God figured out, along came Jesus to shatter their preconceptions. His teachings were new in every sense of the word. He didn't teach "Out with the old and in with the new". Rather, he began to show how the old way of doing things was a sign to a new and better way. Jesus confirmed that, indeed, God should be revered as creator, lord, king, judge and Good Shepherd just as the Old Testament had instructed. But in addition, he gave us fresh images of God as a loving father, a divine counsellor and comforter, and even a friend. His examples of love and forgiveness were special.

When it comes to Bible knowledge, the one thing most people know is the Christmas story. We know what the Bible says about the heart-warming account of Mary riding her donkey to Bethlehem and then expecting her baby but being told by the inn-keeper that there was no room. We know about the skies filled with singing angels, and the baby in the stable being visited by three wise men, among others.

While in Bethlehem, Mary had to give birth to her baby. The inns were booked, but she and Joseph found a place that had a manger (a food trough for farm animals). Though just about every Nativity scene you will see shows a free standing stable, it is just as likely that Jesus was born in a cave, which was a common place to shelter animals.

The birth might have gone unnoticed except for some very unusual events. To begin with, nearby shepherds were directed to the child Jesus by an angel, backed up by a "great company of the heavenly host, praising God". The shepherds left their flocks, found the baby with his parents and came back glorifying God and telling every one what they had seen.

Many exiles will come home for Christmas. The visit will bring peace, happiness and joy to the loved ones at home and the loved ones coming home. All exiles, as in the case of the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon, have a special place in the heart and mind of the Saviour Jesus, who himself experienced exile in Egypt with his loving mother and St. Joseph.

We send special greetings to all the immigrants and missionaries throughout the world and pray God's blessing, peace, joy and happiness on them for this holy season of Christmas, and every success and blessing for the New Year.

And every good wish to all our parishioners for Christmas and the New Year. We pray that you will have an abundance of all that is best at this time and throughout the New Year. We greatly appreciate your support, encouragement and presence so readily given at all times.

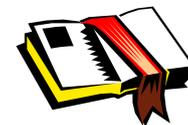
Monsignor Kevin O'Callaghan, P.P



Fairtrade Christmas Hamper

Winner: Patsy Teahan, Leedsdale
Runners-up: Dorothy O'Connell, Wilton Rd,
May O'Connell, Woodlawn, Rita O'Connell,
Laburnum Park and Ursula Fry, Blackrock.

Bible Corner



Emmanuel

There is usually a background story to a person's name, be it a baptismal name or a later pet name. It may be a name well established in the family or it may be linked to a hope parents have for their child's future.

Many names are given to our Christmas Infant. The name Jesus indicates his future calling as Saviour of his people. Son of David is linked to his royal Jewish ancestry. Messiah refers to his being the promised leader of God's people. Christ means the anointed one, anointed to suffer.

This weekend's gospel highlights my favourite Christmas name, Emmanuel, God is with us. The foundation of all our hope is that God is with us in all we do and in all that happens to us. Welcome him. Emmanuel.

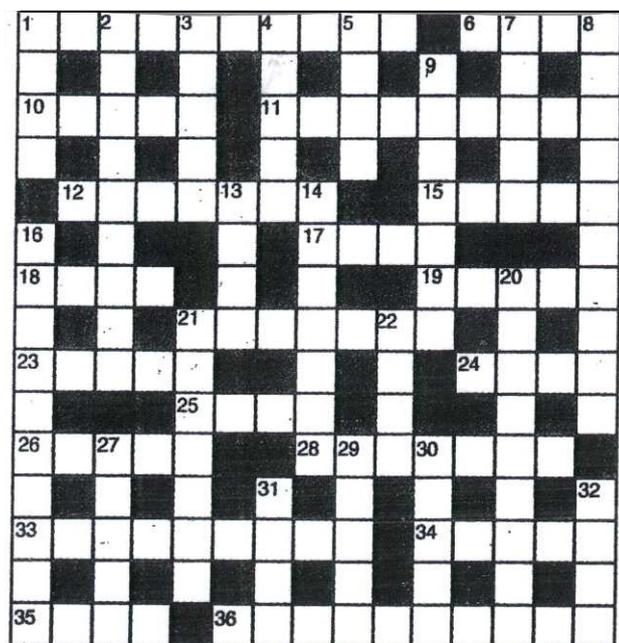
Happy Christmas.

Fr. Tom

PASTORAL COUNCIL

- We wish all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.
- The website team needs a few more members who have some computer skills.
- Thank you to Paddy Killeen and the choir, the readers and liturgy group for the beautiful advent carol service.
- Our thanks to the Priests and the liturgy group for the enriching Mass and ceremony for parishioners who died during the past twelve months.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD by Portia



Across

1. Christmas. This is the duration of it – supposedly! (6,4)
6. It's a black bird, but not a blackbird. (4)
10. Could be jealous, naïve or just ecology-minded. (5)
11. It's how we address our esteemed newcomer. (9)
12. Let it again and let loose. (7)
15. Tapas ingredients adapted. (5)
17. One over the eight! (4)
18. Some time elapsed with part of the church inside. (4)
19. Lose your lovely summer colour, dance! (5)
21. Slam Ina to turn around. That's beastly. (7)
23. Place – and put forward as fact. (5)
24. Has hairy skin and green flesh. Could be from New Zealand. (4)
25. So great, a horrible giant is within. (4)

26. Sounding less estimable than 11 across, but equally revered! (2,3)
28. Sweet to be this old – no, this young. (7)
33. This is it. Sounds rather angry. (9)
34. Historically, the clergyman owned this land. (5)
35. Transgressions, the worst of which are deadly (4)
36. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. Mk. 16. (2,3,5)

Down

1. For the Romans, it was a cover up – almost. (4)
2. Timely institution for a little self indulgence. (9)
3. Could be the place for 2 down. (5)
4. These women are really men! That's okay, it's the Pantomime season. (5)
5. Is this how they pull in The States? What a jerk! (4)
7. Tears these – to do with tariffs. (5)
8. Whirl a cook around and find an addiction. (10)
9. On the rocks, tenacious! (7)
13. Some time in the future, not identified. (4)
14. Perhaps avoid them, but love them. (7)
16. See them on the children when they see what Santa has brought. (5,5)
20. One less is confused by such silence. (9)
21. Do this and cause minute fragmentation. (7)
22. Not your usual domesticated pussy cat! (4)
27. Get this in the side and it really irritates. And the lovely rose is responsible! (5)
29. Large Asian country can be found here – in diamonds. (5)
30. You wouldn't want to encounter one, unless it's of the Celtic variety. (5)
31. Peaceful bird, symbolic of our own church. (4)
32. Why is this esteemed man in the last corner here? But isn't he the cornerstone of our church? (4)

Entries to Parish office by Sunday 6th January please



CONTACT DETAILS

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God's Word

Readings for Sunday 30th December
First Reading:: Eccles (Sir) 3:2-6,12-14
Psalm 127; Second Reading: Col 3:12-21
Gospel: Mt 2:13-15,19-23