

Ballineaspig Bulletin

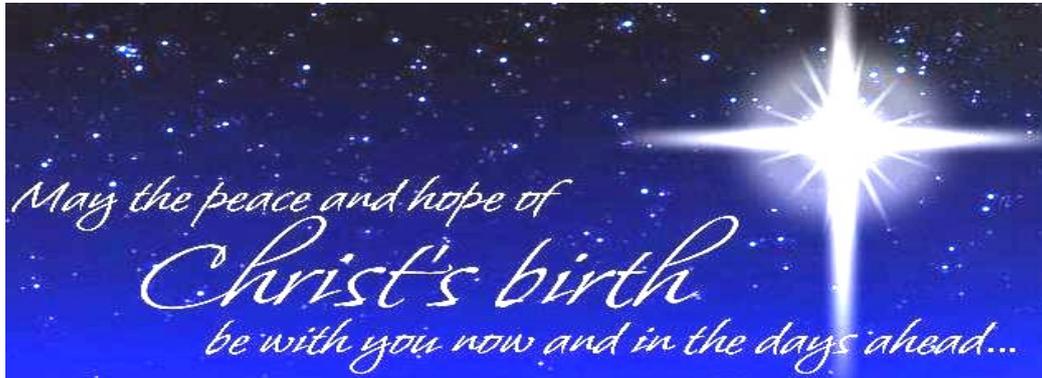


CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

25th December 2008

Christmas Day

No. 989



The Homecoming of God The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us

The story of Christmas will never lose its freshness. And as long as there are hearts open to the beauty of childhood and to the appeal of a God who is young and helpless and full of mercy it will continue to move hearts as it moved St. Francis of Assisi to tears.

A maiden driven forth; a sinful world cosily tucking itself away for a good sleep closes the doors on God coming to take its sins away. It was a strange welcome for the homecoming of God, to find himself homeless among his own.

And yet year after year or more often if we are wise, we go over to Bethlehem and in that hillside cave we find ourselves at home. Child or adult we may stand before the Crib and, as we gaze in wonder, the great question comes to mind, what prompted Him to come? And we find the answer:

Shepherds adore the Good Shepherd as he comes. The sheep that were lost he will bring on His shoulders, the same shoulders that will bear the cross. The Angels will greet His coming, the sweetest music ever heard on earth, giving the one message that the Prince of peace born for us, dying for us, will win the day for us, and earn for us a Home.

"Heaven does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart. And the heart of God, during the Holy Night, stooped down to the stable: the humility of God is Heaven. Then the earth too is made new. With the humility of the shepherds, let us sing out, during this Holy Night, towards the child in the stable! Let us touch God's humility, God's heart! Then His joy will touch us and will make the world more radiant. Amen" (Pope Benedict XVI Midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome 2007)

We ask the Prince of Peace to bless each one of you our parishioners and friends with the grace of a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We thank you for your constant kindness and support throughout the year.

Monsignor Kevin O'Callaghan, P.P.

Advent Carol Service

Congratulations to all who helped to make the Advent Carol Service so memorable. A darkened church, illuminated with hundreds of candles created a prayerful, peaceful atmosphere. The choir, under their conductor Patrick Killeen, gave a magnificent recital, as did soloist Sinead Murphy. The readers of the scripture were excellent as were our own Handbell Ringers.

Monsignor O'Callaghan in thanking all those present made special mention of Patrick Killeen for his significant contribution to the inspiring occasion.

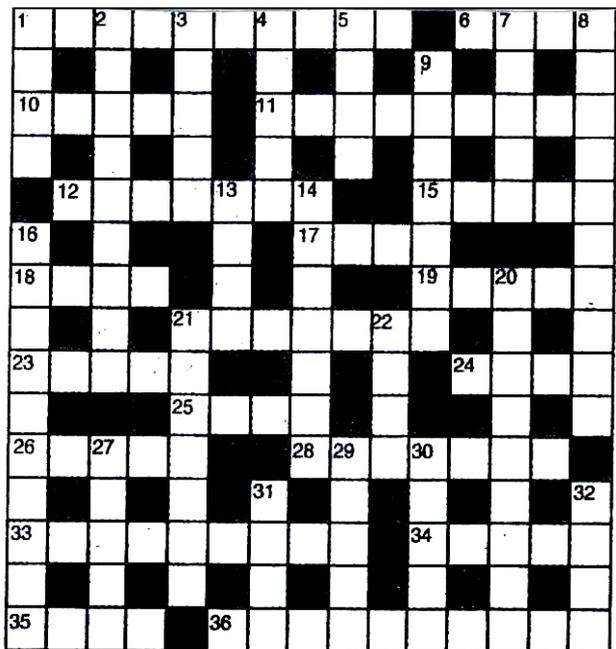
HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL

A friend and colleague of Trócaire's, human rights activist Jestina Mukoko, was abducted by men thought to be government officials at the beginning of December. She is still missing and her son is without his mother for Christmas. She was taken because of her brave stance against human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. Trócaire asks you to read about Jestina on its website, trocaire.org, and to take part in an online campaign to have Jestina freed. Thank you.

SS. PETER AND PAUL'S PARISH CENTENARY

Bring the children along to visit our traditional Italian Nativity Crib open until 6th January, 9.00-1.30 and 5.00-7.00pm. The display includes a merchant's house, tavern, inn, stores, laboratory, as well as a bakery and town apartments. It is manufactured from polystyrene, cork, wire, mesh, and includes a beer can's float ball, bottle cork holder, beads, Chinese chopsticks, plastic chocolate box and brass piping. Try to recognise them in the globe, the book shelves, the alembic stand, wardrobes and tables. Free admission.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD by Portia



Across

1. Make contact before leaving, that's a close one. (5,3,2)
6. Within surreal tones a singer hides. (4)
10. Measuring devise that sounds like a fellow going on a date. (5)
11. Light at the end of the tunnel? (3,2,4)
12. Diminishes, so as to sound like planting again. (7)
15. A very large number of entertainers. (5)
17. Data rate includes historical Irish location. (4)
18. Intend to be so stingy. (4)
19. Means of attachment, at one's fingertips. (5)
21. Went on a tour and fell over. (7)
23. Make a fair division. (5)
24. Internet users get annoyed by maps turned around. (4)
25. Roan gallops around for a girl. (4)
26. Following in, these groups would have six legs. (5)

28. Put sale rebuilt - and beat. (7)
33. All who are guided by the Spirit of God are... Romans 8 (4,2,3)
34. Such energetic dances make the head spin. (5)
35. As always, our crossword must include that Senior Cleric that we all love. (4)
36. Deceased landlord? Or abandoned post. (4,6)

Down

1. Sounds like berry here. (4)
2. Don't allow yourself to be driven here. Perhaps grow some climbing plants there. (2,3,4)
3. Multitudinous, like 15 across. (5)
4. Of old, coming from Oslo, or Bergen perhaps. (5)
5. Chaps, from America. (4)
7. These surely must be proud animals? (5)
8. Opening instructions from Ali. Must have been an electronic gate. (4,6)
9. This is where the wrist is found - a bit casual. (7)
13. Could splendour embody such gloominess? (4)
14. Halt a space to find temporary solution. (7)
16. Mashed pies produce what is clearly defined. (10)
20. I need a doctor, can't wait. (9)
21. Breaking in stone we find such tightness. (7)
22. Rooted in money, so they say. (4)
27. Get in line for this South American dance. (5)
29. Caused someone's downfall, loosened up. (5)
30. You're letting your hair down if you go on one. (5)
31. A condition to give you the shivers in olden times. (4)
32. One who exploits - or takes illegal substances! (4)

Entries to Parish office by Sunday 4th January please



CONTACT DETAILS

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GOD'S WORD

Readings for Sunday 28th December
 First Reading: Gen 15:1-6,21:1-3. Psalm: 104
 Second Reading: Heb 18:11-12, 17-19.
 Gospel: Lk 2:22-40