

# Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

**Christmas Day, 2016**

**Christmas & New Year**

**No: 1318**

## MASS TIMES

### Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

### Weekdays

9.30am

### Eve of Holyday -6th

Jan. 2017

7.30pm

### Holydays - 6th Jan:

9.00, 10.30 &

7.30pm

## God's Word

Readings for **Sunday**  
**1st Jan, 2017**

### First Reading:

Num 6:22-27

**Psalm:** 66

### Second Reading:

2 Gal 4: 4-7

### Gospel:

Lk 2: 16-21

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Fr. Bertie O'Mahony,**

P.P.

4346940

**Fr. Tom Clancy**

4347616

**Parish Office**

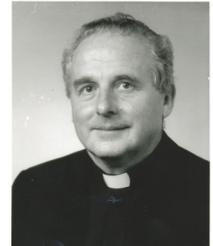
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## MY BROTHER'S BIRTHDAY



Young Michael is haunted by news pictures of children suffering in Syria. He wrote to Santa Claus to bring them his toys and his new warm clothes. He will be fine with his old toys. Very early in life, he has realised that there are many deprived children in the world and that he can lessen their hardship. He is learning that giving to those in need brings more happiness than getting what one does not really need. It is a maturing lesson. Some never experience its wisdom. Tokens of appreciation and love are both precious and essential but expense is an unreliable indicator of sincerity. Extravagance is more often a sign of insecurity than of affection. The cheapest card may well be a symbol of the most rewarding love as every parent and teacher knows.

Christmas is a season of contrasts. Festivity and famine live side by side as do waste and want, tinsel and terror, heroism and hypocrisy, love and loneliness, drink and drought, faith and fear, faith in God and fear among men. The first Christmas saw similar contrasts. The occupying army was to be seen everywhere. The terrorists were less visible. Bethlehem was a boom town for those in business. For the poor, who had been summoned there on an Emperor's whim, it was like a refugee camp without facilities. For Joseph, it was a nightmare as he scoured the town for lodgings for his wife to give birth. For Mary, despite the hardships, it was the fulfilment of all her dreams as she became mother of the promised one. For Jesus, it was the scene of a new beginning as He came on earth as the bridge between heaven and earth, between the all giving God and the impoverished human race.

This Christmas the same Jesus reaches out again to link us to God and to bind us to one another. It is a time for bridge building between the present day contrasts of plenty and penury, of affection and abandonment, of reconciliation and rejection, of hilarity and hopelessness. There is an unique bridge that nobody else but you can build this Christmas. Courageous bridge building will lead to an everlasting Christmas of God's presence with us.

Happy Christmas.

Fr. Tom.

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# NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

**1947**

Prayer of an 11 year old Boy Scout

“Lord, teach me to be generous,  
to love and serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and to look for no reward  
except the reward of doing your holy will.”

Fr. Tom

**2017**

Prayer of an 81 year old assistant Priest

Lord, lead me to be gentle,  
to care for others as they need,  
to listen and not to grudge the time,  
to blossom each day and not bemoan the passing  
of yesterdays world and of my own strength,  
to grow in awe at the wonder of God’s creation  
and our dependence and our interdependence,  
to treasure the three pillars of life - family, friends  
and faith,  
to look for no achievement except to grow in  
peace and love of you and those around me.

Fr. Tom

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS TIMES



**Mon: St. Stephen’s Day** (Dec. 26th) - 9.30am

**Tues. to Fri.** (Dec. 27th to Dec. 30th) - 9.30am

**Sat.:** (Dec. 31st) - 9.30am & Vigil Mass 6.15pm

**Sun:** (January 1st) - 9.00am, 10.30am & 12.15pm

**Mon. to Wed.** ( Jan. 2nd to Jan. 4th) - 9.30am

**Thurs:** (Jan 5th) - 9.30am & Vigil for Epiphany at  
7.30pm

**Fri.** (Jan. 6th) - **Feast of the Epiphany:** 9.00am,  
10.30am & 7.30pm.

Just a reminder that the collection on Christmas Day is for the Priests of the Parish.

### **St. Vincent de Paul:**

The collection in aid of St. Vincent de Paul will take place at all Masses on **weekend of 31st December, 2016 and Sunday 1st January, 2017.**

## WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The **2017 collection envelopes** will be available for collection from the **Parish Office** after all the Masses on the weekend of the **31st Dec./1st January, 2017.** It would be very much appreciated if you would collect your box of envelopes early in the year.

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Christmas greetings to all our parishioners in the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

Christmas is a time when we gather as families and celebrate together. It is a special occasion when Santa visits and families, friends and neighbours travel from far and wide to celebrate. During the festive season we should remember that the true meaning of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus over two thousand years ago.

Let us not forget the lonely and poor who may not look forward to Christmas as it can magnify their problems.

The Pastoral Council wishes to thank all those who contributed during the past year to the upkeep of the Church in Dennehy’s Cross as well as parish events and to our sister parish in Turkwell. Some of this year’s highlights include a highly successful Parish Mission, the Year of Mercy walk to St. Francis Church on Palm Sunday and Mass concelebrated by Bishop John Buckley in May in thanksgiving for the restoration of the Church.

We would also like to thank our Priests, Fr. Bertie and Fr. Tom for their support and encouragement during the past year. As we look forward to a New Year, let us resolve to continue supporting each other and to pass on the values we so believe in to those who come after us.

Pastoral Council.