

The Knocklyon News



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 1985



FAIR DAY



*Bottles, Books, Bargains, Bread, Busy Lizzies
What are we talking about?*

As the doors opened on Sunday morning the occupants of the junior school took a deep breath – it might be the last chance they'd get until near six that evening. Then the pushing and shoving started – children propelled by mothers and fathers who were as eager to see Santa as the kids themselves. Pass the signposts, just look for any sign of a queue forming, that'll be Santa's House.



*It was a family outing
and enjoyed by one and all
The children visited Santa
While Mum browsed through each stall*



Report continued on pages 4 and 5



*Santa sees double as Paula and Joanna O'Connor,
Cremorne, visit him at the Christmas Fair.*



WISHING ALL PARISHIONERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Midnight Mass will be offered for your intentions

Fr. Chris Conroy
Fr. Alan Fitzpatrick

Fr. Arthur Fitzpatrick
Fr. Aidan McLoughlin



Most people look forward to Christmas but for some it's a sad and lonely time. Not just for the old but sometimes for the young as well. One young person once described Christmas day as the most boring day of the whole year. "You can't go out and enjoy yourself with your friends, you have to stay at home and watch T.V. with the family." A middle aged woman described what Christmas meant to her. She dreaded the approach of Christmas.

She had been an only child. But her parents were long since dead. She had no aunts or uncles. No close relatives. She was all alone, the last of her family. She had friends, yes. She exchanged cards and gifts with them at Christmas time. But somehow none of them ever thought of inviting her to their homes on Christmas Day. They did invite her on St. Stephens Day, but never on Christmas Day.

So how does she spend Christmas Day? Mostly on her own, though she is by no means a recluse. After an early morning Mass she goes out to help in some voluntary work for others. Then she comes back, cooks dinner, and eats it on her own. She switches on the T.V., but even its bright shows fail to raise her spirits. T.V. is no substitute for having someone with you. She cries a lot. She just can't help it. Towards evening, as darkness sets in and the lights of a million Christmas trees come on, she goes for a walk. But on Christmas evening it's lonely out of doors too. The streets and parks are deserted. All doors are closed. She tries the door of her local church but that too is firmly locked.

But then in the midst of her loneliness and tears she feels very close to Christ. She feels close to his sufferings. She realises that in a very real sense he was an outsider at the first Christmas — there was no room for him at the inn. And even though her tears continue to fall, she feels an inner happiness that is impossible to describe or explain. Why? Because Christ gives a meaning to her loneliness and pain. He is her Saviour and her Brother who came to share our lives, to help us carry our burdens, and to walk the road of life at our side. That is the real meaning of Christmas.

Let's all have a very Happy Christmas and don't forget the little child who came to give a meaning to it all.

Chris Conroy

There is an eager stillness in the air,
The woodlands, late of varied hues, are bare
And migrant birds have left us everywhere
When Christ our King is born.



The goodly earth outworn exhausted lies,
Floodlost meadows know no cattle cries
And swollen rivers surging onwards rise,
When Christ our King is born.

For man himself, his wonted labours cease
And earthly Souls glow bright in their release
For there to share by all is Perfect Peace,
When Christ our King is born.



Seosamb O Cuinneagain.



All ages helped out — Aoife O'Brien (5) sells a book at Book Stall.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Friday, 20th December

8 p.m.

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This Christmas

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THE STORY OF ADAM



On the 1 June, 1985 Colm's Mammy went to hospital to get him a new baby. A few days later his Mammy came home but had to leave his new brother, Adam, in hospital. His Mammy and Daddy found out over the next few days that Adam would never be coming home, that it just wasn't meant to be. So they told Colm – Sorry, but you have a brother, but we won't ever have him here to play with you. Okay, Colm replied, you'll just have to get another fat tummy, Mammy.



Adam

Adam was born with Rubenstein Taybi Syndrome. A very rare, complicated, practically unheard of syndrome – only 300 cases of it recorded in the world to date. Among the many symptoms are broad thumbs and toes, heart and lung complications and mental retardation. Adam's main complication is a malformed heart.

And Adam was born to a family in Knocklyon. The first distressing month passed and Adam stayed alive, defying the odds. So his Mammy and Daddy brought him home to Colm. Colm thought this was great, the baby brother he wasn't ever going to have, now at home. July came and went and Adam started smiling and loved Colm playing with him. Adam started to gain weight. He had to be fed his 3 oz feed three hourly and needed constant monitoring. He went on holiday to Wexford with Colm. His Mammy and Daddy felt it was like a miracle but had to keep reminding themselves that this was not to be, just not possible. As Adam began to focus and his eyes followed them around, they felt: No, we cannot,

must not, build up hope, and neither must Colm.

So August came and went. The sleepless nights continued. The worry of caring stayed with them always. In September Colm went back to school. Adam and his Mammy collected him every day. His Granny brought an Argos catalogue over one day. Colm picked out a rocking horse for Adam for Christmas. How does his Mammy explain that Adam wouldn't be with them at Christmas. The doctors gave him five to six months to live at the most. "Next time Mammy, get a baby girl, maybe she won't go away".

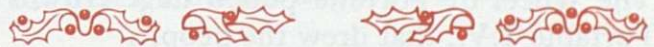
Now it is December and Adam has a lot of serious problems, has spent a lot of time in hospital, has gained weight and has come through major setbacks.

His Mammy and Daddy felt so alone when they heard the words "Rubenstein Taybi Syndrome", that they are now forming a support group to document all available information on this rare syndrome. It was first discovered by Dr. Rubenstein and Dr. Taybi in America in 1963, when they brought five children with similar complications together.

There is only one other child, aged 1, in the Dublin area with RTS. Adam's Mammy is going to make sure that if ever another RTS baby is born in Ireland she will be there to help so that no one will ever have to go through the loneliness they all felt.

So Colm goes on, going to school. He reached his sixth birthday, goes out playing – how does he feel? Who knows what goes on in his mind? It is like giving a lollipop to a child, let him suck it, then taking it away. But it is not a lollipop, it is a life.

Sometimes Santa does bring rocking horses . . .



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THE DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Those not attached to children got down to the serious business of the day, i.e. bargain-hunting. The skilled eye could scan the shelves and tables and find exactly what was needed. Money was passed over, others, less fortunate, jostled for space. Radiant faces were seen everywhere and cries of "Look what I just bought" could be heard.

All very bewildering to unsuspecting passers-by, but to those others who had been working hard for the past month it was fairly evident — the Christmas Fair was in full swing.

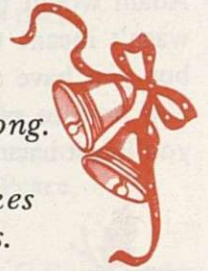
*The grocery stall had prices that made Superquinn's seem wrong
The bread was slashed — as well as sliced and the beans went for a song.*

*The goodies from the country shop included crunchy buns and cakes
And marmalades and chutneys and crafts of all shapes and makes.*



*The White Elephant had bags of fun but had we bought a pig in a poke?
No — everyone got bargains and here we shared a laugh and a joke.*

*With growing interest I viewed the plants, here budding gardeners could learn
The green fingers had produced some beauts: I gained a healthy fern.*



Orla McCluskey selling the home-made produce



Ayesha O'Reilly and Arlene Kelly enjoying the plant stall

The Wheel of Fortune pulled huge crowds as usual. Maybe it was the attraction of the Portable T.V., that drew the people.

*The Wheel of Fortune was a winner. It attracted big and small.
The prizes were worth gambling for, but that elusive telly fooled us all!*



*When it came to "name the teddy", it was just a guessing game.
Fr. Arthur had us all puzzled with that fluffy, scruffy name!*

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M.C. at the Wheel of Fortune, Gerry Daly



Lorraine Glynn sells lollipops to Colin Humphreys

The bottle stall was completely cleared out as usual. Tickets were drawn for the "racer" and the hamper. The Christmas Cake was won and so was the teddy – Scruffy was it's name by the way.



*The bottle stall had everything, from lemonade to gin
You could spot the lucky winners by the bottle tucked under the chin.*



Fathers dragging bewildered toddlers wondered if there was any chance of an Irish Coffee. Mothers gathered presents for grandparents, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews.



*It was thirsty work doing the rounds and many required a sup
An Irish Coffee did the trick and left one well warmed up.*



Michael Karney takes the money at the bottle stall



The Brownie stall had plenty of helpers

Then the cleaning squad moved in – classroom plans were adhere to – tables and chairs returned to their respective places. Decorations were folded up for another year. Thanks to one and all, the Christmas Fair was a great success.

*And on Monday morn the school was cleared, the beavers had worked en masse
You'd never know we had a show as each child returned to class.*



*A word of praise must surely go to the people in command
And thank them for their dedication. They all deserve a "big hand".*



*And in case we forget what it's all about: 'Tis to raise funds and show that we care –
for our parish, our Church, our School – and ourselves. How about having an Easter Fair?*



Verse by M. Clifford
Text by Fiona Lynch

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Currently 2,500 copies of Knocklyon News are printed monthly. About 2,000 of these are hand-delivered to households in all estates within the parish boundaries. Copies are also distributed via the Information Desk in Superquinn, Knocklyon – thus bringing your message even further afield.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE PAT AT
947493 – ANYTIME**

SHARING WITH OUR SEPARATED BRETHREN . . .



Quotes keep popping up in our minds from time to time for perhaps not very conscious reasons. Who has not heard of, for instance: "In the midst of life we are in death." Ah yes, but where does it come from? I had an idea it was scriptural and as things transpired, we were not too far out there. It is from the Church of Ireland's Book of Common Prayer and probably, at least indirectly, based on Sacred Scripture.

The Book of Common Prayer emerged at the time of the Reformation. It is considered the outstanding liturgical achievement of that Reformation and the model of all Anglican liturgies. Naturally, because of its background and origin, we Romans shied away from it. But now some centuries on, and, thank the Lord, much of the heat of the Reformation fading, we can look positively, out of interest, and yes, also for edification, at this work, without being accused of sprouting heretical horns!

Of interest might be the more controversial aspects, for instance, when it describes Purgatory as: "Fond thing, vainly invented." Or again at the heart of this great sad division: "The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this realm of England." Less controversial and of more novel interest from its Table of Kindred: "A man may not marry his grandmother!"

But the edification is there aplenty too and some of it very appropriate for this Advent Season of repentances and preparation for the Lord's special coming at Christmas. From its Confession

liturgy etc. we have some moving calls to acknowledge our sins: "Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness . . . We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have left undone those things we ought to have done. And we have done those things which we ought not to have done. And there is no health in us . . . Have mercy upon us miserable sinners . . ." "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us". I give the Protestant version to jolt us into appreciation of its importance and beauty.

But we've drifted from our original "In the midst of life etc". I would dare to report it in a more positive way: In the midst of death, we are in life and love. Recently I had the enriching experience of meeting a family who had just suffered a bereavement — the grandmother, a young eighty, had lost her beloved husband after fifty four years of happy marriage. She recalled how some few years ago they had both been in the States visiting friends. One of the company, evidently quite impressed that they were still together after so many years, asked how come. My friend's answer was brief but richly eloquent — "Because I love him!" Such a love is surely an offspin of the Divine love where there is no place for death but only life and love. "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder" — again from The Book of Common Prayer!

Pat Fitz.



Colin, Sally Ann and Mary Ellen Holmes from Coolamber Park with their balloons.

Alan Murphy, Landsdowne, collects his brother Mark's prize from Fr. Arthur.

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Brian O'Riordan, Dargle Wood, meets Santa
PADDY THE CHEF

I would like to recommend a very simple but elegant first course for the Christmas lunch. It is thinly sliced melon and kiwi fruit brushed with lemon and sugar syrup. The combination of melon and kiwi would be described in culinary terms as very modern or in the "Nouvelle style".

Lemon and sugar syrup: The syrup must be made well in advance so that it is very cold when it is being used.

4 oz sugar

One Lemon

Mix the juice of the lemon with the sugar in a pot. Put on a low heat and stir with a wooden spoon until dissolved. If you want to make the syrup very special substitute a little port or pernod for some of the lemon juice. When the sugar has dissolved bring to the boil, remove the wooden spoon and boil rapidly for 80 seconds. Great care must be taken with this mixture as it gets extremely hot and sticky. When ready, remove from heat and leave to cool.

1 medium sized melon for 4 people
2 to 4 kiwi for 4 people



To prepare the melon cut about one half inch from each end. Sit the melon on its bottom, take one of the cut ends, hold it firmly with one hand, trim off all the skin with a sharp knife working from top to bottom, rotating the melon until it is all peeled. Cut in half and remove the seeds. Lay on its flat side and slice thinly. Leave to one side. Follow the same procedure with the kiwi, trimming off all the skin. It is of course, much smaller and therefore more difficult to handle and the seeds are not removed.

The presentation of the fruit on the plate is of vital importance. If you are not too sure of your artistic ability lay the fruit in straight lines on either side of the plate or it can be done in a circle, oval design, alternative slices etc. Brush or spoon on the syrup just before eating.

I would like to wish my few faithful followers a Holy and Happy Christmas.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On behalf of the needy children of the city the St. Vincent de Paul Society would welcome gifts of new toys or old toys in good condition from the children of Knocklyon parish. Such toys may be placed around the altar during the Offertory at all Masses on Sunday 15th December or handed into the Presbytery.

GIFTS WITH CHRISTMAS IN MIND ...

Then call to our Church Shop and see the wide variety of gifts available. The prices are right and do just look in our display cabinet and see what good value we offer. Good selection of Christmas Cards also in stock.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Irene Maria Grant,
Aoife Patricia Scallan,
Declan Richard Flynn,
Jeremy Joseph Whyte,
Louise Mary Tighe
Maria Christine Murphy,
Andrew Phillip Donohoe,
Colm James Corrligan,

88 Dargle Wood
15 Knockcullen Pk.
162 Coolamber Pk.
40 Delaford Dr.
138 Glenvara Pk.
69 Idrone Pk.
65 Idrone Pk.
35 Cremorne

£6,100

The Christmas Fair Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all who helped the Christmas Fair this year — the stall holders, who helped to collect and those who donated gifts for the Fair and so many others too numerous to mention. You will all be glad to hear that the Fair was a great success — the overall profit being in the region of £6.100 — which will be a great help towards the parish funds.

THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE



I have asked many people about the origins of the Irish tradition of placing a lighted candle in the window at Christmas time. Most had the answer that it was a sign of welcome to Mary and Joseph, but more than that they did not know. A beautiful gesture and I'd like to believe that the origin of the Christmas candle goes back a long way in history.

About this time of the year is celebrated the Jewish feast of Chanukah or the Feast of Tabernacles. Before the time of Christ the Jewish people gathered round the Temple in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles and erected family tents or tabernacles to house them for the days of the festival. In each tent an oil lamp burned lighting the interior and signifying the life or light of the family: a light that was extinguished only at time of great upheaval or death in the family. Looking over the sea of tents or tabernacles and the lights of the lamps glowing through the fabric of the tents gave an aura of warmth and unity. Christ attended the religious festival and in preaching to the people said, "I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark; he will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Researchers in finding the roots of the Celtic race have revealed a closeness of the Celts with the East and it's possible that our Christmas candle is a continuation of that ancient Feast of Tabernacles.

As the youngest member of the family lights the Christmas candle let us recall the words of Christ, "I am the light of the world."

Happy Christmas.

Joe Clinch

112th SCOUT UNIT KNOCKLYON NOVEMBER DRAW WINNERS

£100 John Donnelly, 3 Delaford Pk., (Honestly, I don't do the draw!)
£ 50 McGinn, 147 Monalea Grove
£ 25 Collins, 105 Coolamber Pk.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Items for inclusion in the January issue of the Newsletter should be handed into the Presbytery by Sunday 19th January 1986. The January issue will be circulated from January 24th.



David Martin Kevin Ganley,
Caoimhe Ann O'Byrne,
Cathal Thomas Leahy,
Michael Gerard Griffin,
Alan Daniel Costello,
Richard Kenneth Sean Ellis,
Marguerite Carter,
Aaron Stephen Murphy,
Ciaran Stephen Anthony Nolan,
Louise Patricia Dodd,

21 Idrone Dr.
225 Glenvara Pk.
27 Knocklyon Pk.
44 Knocklyon Green
66 Cremorne
122 Glenvara Pk.
15, Knocklyon Pk.
100 Glenvara Pk.
37 Landsdowne Pk.
14 Knocklyon Ave.

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