



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 1983

CHRISTMAS: A thought! A prayer!

The silence of the night, the love of Mary and Joseph, the comforting presence of shepherds and animals, the joyous singing of angels, all mark this greatest of historic moments.

"God so loved . . . that he gave his only son . . ."

Try and see the passion that underlies those inspired words. For if only I can grasp how tremendously God loves me, every single thing slips into place . . .

- I am deeply secure
- I know. I am at all times forgiven, understood
- there is peace in my home and joy in my heart
- I find my strength in prayer
- and I hunger to share with others my goods, my dearest thoughts, my very self.
- just as He longs to share with me.

The Word made flesh. Flesh just like mine!



*Wishing all parishioners
a very Happy Christmas.*



CHRISTMAS FAIR – A BEST EVER!

Always the main annual fund-raiser, this year's fair outstripped all its predecessors, netting a massive £6,000 for harassed Parish Funds. A veritable life-saver! And, as usual, a highly enjoyable social event.

It was a marvellous coming together of skilled planning and organisation by an experienced, expert and industrious committee and widespread generous response and assistance from literally hundreds of parishioners.

Thanking people is a hazardous undertaking when one runs the risk of overlooking perhaps those most deserving of gratitude. So to one and all who worked so generously and hard to help make this year's Christmas Fair successful: may the Good Lord himself reward you as only He knows how.



The staff of the "White Elephant".



Santa and friend



Paddy Fitzmaurice – Chairman, Christmas Fair Committee "Workswept" but happy after the Fair.

THINGS IS LOOKING UP!

That editor bloke never gives up! There was I, tip-toeing around the house, with head down, kinda pretending I wasn't there. You see, it had to be Newsletter time again! Then he pounced; "how about your few words for the letter?" In a last ditch stand I muttered weakly something like, thinking he had enough for this edition. But even then, sensing there was no way out, the old mind was clawing about for ideas. The one light on the horizon – my brief was to be brief!

Now it was Sunday afternoon, and we were driving in the Old Bawn, Tallaght area. Coming on to the Tallaght by-pass, I noticed two young lads thumbing. On the spur of the moment – to stop or not to stop is always a bit like that – I pulled in. "Are you going by Killinarden, Father"? I was; it was not far away, although a fair enough step on foot. They were nice boys, open, friendly and grateful to me. They had been selling papers since 9 a.m., the older boy worked at making glasses (spectacles) during the week. The journey was too short for detail. "Would you like a paper, Father?" It was a nice thought. "You're welcome, Father, good-bye, thanks very much".

I felt good after that brief encounter. There are a lot of good decent people around. Some days ago there was that man who arrived with many, if not all, of the family toys, for the poor. He would be back tomorrow with some more. He spirited them away while his boys and girls were at school, to save possible heartaches. No big deal, just sheer unsung big-heartedness. So lift you your hearts and Happy Christmas and . . . ah well, why not, Happy Christmas to the editor too.

Patrick Fitz.



A LITTLE CAROL SERVICE AT HOME, around the Crib or Christmas Tree



1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, (3)
Christ the Lord.

1. Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

1. Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child;
holy infant so tender and mild:
sleep in heavenly peace, (2)

2. Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia:
Christ, the Saviour is born. (2)

3. Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. (2)

1. See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn,
hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in heights sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

4. 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing peace on earth,
told us of the Saviour's birth.

Prayer:

Let us pray
God our Father,
every year we rejoice
as we look forward to this feast of our salvation.
May we welcome Christ as our Redeemer,
and meet him with confidence when he comes to be
our judge,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The
Season's
Greetings



*Martin Roche and Father Pat Fitz enjoy a
joke at a most enjoyable "Collectors' Social"
on Saturday December 10th.*



A NOT SO SILENT CHURCH MOUSE!

Dear Rev. Editor

It is with mixed feelings of anger and bewilderment that I scratch these few words to you.

Recently my life was totally upset by your insensitive decision to locate your new-fangled prefab near the presbytery – I've had to leave home!

My first re-action was to visit St. Colmcille's Church in the hope of getting the good Lord to influence your decision. At the very least I expected some peace and comfort.

Much to my dismay – having entered the CHURCH SHOP I froze in my steps at the sight of lovely Lily's plight on observing my presence.

The real object of my anger, however, is one Fr. O'Loan – the identity of whom I subsequently discovered having read last month's magazine. Being dressed incognito with his fancy shirt I was immediately thrown off guard. Wherever he acquired his violent "habits" from only the good Lord knows. He certainly did not acquire them in the hallowed halls of Carmelite sanctuaries. I'm lucky to be alive to relate his horrendous attack on my diminutive person.

Yes indeed you are correct in observing the direction of my flight. I am presently, warmly settled, in the presbytery watching you as you wine and dine and only venturing out when the good Editor is "on the phone!" I avoid with great care Fr. Arthur's room as I wouldn't fancy a belt of his number 9!

However, I intend to concentrate my offensive on the one responsible for my predicament Fr O'Loan! – "Bi ullamh i gconai" "He who laughs last...!"

Your silent church mouse.

MICKEY!



A Mhichil, A Chara,

Sincere apologies for the recent upset caused to your way of life at Knocklyon. I can only suggest there must have been some misunderstanding of the situation on the part of lovely Lily, Fr. O'Loan and Fr. Arthur. May I assure you that we, as a community, although sometimes out of tune in song, are none the less very much in tune with the sentiments of the hymn:

*"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."*

Do drop in for a bite of cheese around the Christmas time, keep laughing!

Ed.



HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN TO BUY SOMEONE A PRESENT?



There is still time to buy those last minute gifts. Where? The Church shop of course. You will find something for children of all ages there – jig-saws, instant picture books, painta pictures, rings, bracelets, bookmarks and a large variety of books . . . all reasonably prices. There are many more attractive items for mums, dads, aunts, uncles, grandmas and grandads. We also stock Christmas cards, candles and cribs – never failing reminders that Christ is Christmas.

The Church Shop is run on a voluntary work basis and all profits go into the Parish Funds. So everytime you buy something, no matter how small, you are helping to clear the Church debt.

Why not drop in and look around, We are open after 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Mass – Monday to Saturday and on Sundays after 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon and 7 p.m. Masses.

See you.





THE KNOCKLYON FOLK GROUP



“From small beginnings great things come!”, or so we say – but we are a **bit** biased! The Knocklyon Folk Group is alive and ‘singing’ at 12.00 Mass each Sunday. From a handful of people in 1975 the group has grown and expanded to, would you believe, not less than 40 people!!

Eight years ago Father Staunton (remember him?) made an appeal for supposed singers to start a music group in the Parish. With the help and assistance of Father John Keating the group was born – in a prefab church. Since then, many people have come and gone but a few old familiar faces still remain.

The Group has gone from strength to strength participating in events ranging from weddings to ordinations, carol singing to singing for the old folks and even . . . wait for it . . . going to Mountjoy – to sing, not to stay – SORRY!!!

But that is not the full extent of our activities. A couple of members represented the Knocklyon Folk Group in the choirs at the Pope’s Masses both in the Phoenix Park and Galway. In 1980, we sang at the opening of the ‘new’ St. Colmcilles Church with Archbishop Dermot Ryan as celebrant, a big event for us.

To help us realize our role in the Mass, several members have gone to the Gort Mhuire Conference Centre for folk week-ends and day seminars, which have proved very successful. Also successful have been our yearly outings to places such as Powerscourt and Glendalough which are always followed by a party!

But, believe it or not, we do find time to sing at home here in Knocklyon. Every Sunday ‘hail, rain, sleet, or snow’, you will find us practising at 11.00 a.m. in the school for our 12.00 p.m. “show”! As if that was not enough we have another practise at 7.45 p.m. in the church inevitably followed by coffee and biscuits.

Finally, as you are most probably aware, we are ‘singing’ out for **males**. So if you are interested and over 15 years, do not hesitate to contact the Presbytery or any of the Folk Group Members. As Father Staunton once said; “. . . marriages begin in Folk Groups . . .”!!!

Yours in tune,
The Knocklyon Folk Group

P.S. Keep an eye out for us Carol Singing around the parish and at Midnight Mass.

CRECHE

Over the past five or six years, Mass in St. Colmcilles has become steadily noisier due to “babes in arms” or should I say “babes in aisles” growing in numbers. It was often suggested that something be done to decrease the noise and distractions. An obvious method of doing this was to organise a creche. **PROBLEM!** Who would take on such a trying task? Answer: **IMPACT**. Remember them? **IN MUSIC PRAYER ACTION CHRISTIANS TOGETHER**. Who better than those with experience? So it was that Imelda Graham and Stephanie Sadlier became involved.

In due course, a meeting was convened for all those willing to supervise young children of pre-school age. The only time found to be suitable for those involved was to hold the creche during 11 a.m. Mass. After much anticipation it arrived . . . Day one: **SUCCESS!**

A grand total of twenty two kiddies were welcomed by seven apprehensive “Impacters” and two depressingly confident ladies! There was plenty of fun, games, and howling! We’d made it! In fact, it went so well some clients were reluctant to leave!

That was five weeks ago. Since then things have been going very well. Every week we see now familiar and always new faces. We see them ploughing through toys, books, and each other. As you can imagine, with at least twenty kids sharing so few toys they don’t last long, i.e. the toys! . . . Yes . . . we do need toys – big or small, old or new. We will gratefully accept any and all contributions, which will also be used for the “Toddlers Morning” and suchlike.

All in all, the creche has been and will continue to be, we hope, a great success. We have been



informed that the noise level has been reduced, if only slightly. People are able to ‘drop’ their kiddies and concentrate more on the Mass in something like peace and quiet.

Yours, **IMPACT**
N.B. Toys are wanted. If you are considering donating a toy or two, and were wondering what would be most helpful – here are a few suggestions!

Duplo, Any Fisher Price toys, cars, tractors, dumpers, books (preferably “Ladybird”), dolls and/or doll’s clothes.

But don’t forget – all donations will be gratefully accepted.



THE PREFAB!

"Now you see it! Now you don't" So goes the magician's patter.

On Sunday November 27th, the magic was in reverse. "Now you don't see it! Now you do!"

For the early morning mass-goers, there was nothing visible above the ground. By the time darkness fell, the entire shell of the building stood erect on site. And now, as we go to print, work continues apace and we should have the "innards" completed — large, communal space, meeting room, office, kitchenette and toilets — and the building freshly painted by Christmas or thereabouts.

Thanks to a tremendous voluntary contribution of time, expertise, services and materials from several of our parishioners (whose praises we hope to hear sung more loudly at the "official opening") together with the very welcome collaborations of ANCO, the prefab will go into operation after Christmas in the services of the parish. So many things can now happen that have been held up for want of space. So many things already happening can now be better housed. With the Senior School about to be fully occupied next September, and consequently a further loss of space to community activities, it couldn't have come at a better time.



ALTAR BOY OF THE YEAR:

THOR O'BRIEN AGE: 11.

Congratulations go to Thor, on being chosen as Altar Boy of the year for 1983. Over the past year Thor has demonstrated on many occasions his readiness to take initiative and to be very helpful. Thor has proven to be a team-worker par-excellence. Well done Thor!

Also a note of thanks to all the other boys here in our parish who turn up so regularly to serve Mass. We have a very fine group of altar servers, and to them and their families we take this opportunity to say thank you and wish them all a happy Christmas.

ONE CHRISTMAS EVE

By Suzanne Downes Age 11

One Christmas Eve I woke up late and there stood two reindeers at my gate.

I saw a reindeer with a nose shining bright, and I saw Santa on that magic night.



Santa also visited the "Wednesday" Toddlers Party in the Church meeting room.



REDUNDANCY – CAN OUR COMMUNITY HELP?

(An excerpt from the Sunday Church Notices, Dec. 4th)

In the present time of economic constraints, which have led to diminished living standards, very many redundancies and often consequent hardship, several parishioners have approached the priests with offers of help for those affected. We would like to take two initiatives in an effort to channel the evident good will of those in a position to give help and thus assist in particular those without jobs.

In the *longer term* we propose to hold an *open meeting on the second Tuesday of January (Jan. 10th)* at which, as a christian community, we might explore ways and means of providing ongoing assistance – funds, job creation, local work projects or the like. We would try to set up some kind of appropriate structure to help alleviate the problems of the time.

In the *shorter term* we propose to open a *fund* which would be used to help families within the parish who are currently hard pressed, to celebrate Christmas in a fitting manner, namely with food on the table, proper heat and clothing, presents for the children and so on.

Contributions to this fund could be made to any one of the priests, or left in a box provided in the church. We would encourage those who are experiencing hardship to approach any of the priests, directly or indirectly, with assurance of the strictest confidence. Being unemployed today is no shame, but rather an unhappy circumstance which occasions the rightful concern of all who are fortunate enough to have work. As Christians, let us all remember that those in need have a right to expect assistance from those who can afford to give it. And reciprocally, those who have more than enough are obliged to share with those who have not.

TOY SALE

The proceeds from this year's Toy Sale in St. Colmcille's Senior School are being donated to the above fund. Very many thanks to all who have contributed to date.

★ ★ ★
*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.*

J.O.C.



Mary Nason, 146 Coolamber Park, receives her raffle prize, the Christmas cake iced and decorated by Eugene Verdon at the demonstration given by him in St. Colmcille's Senior School.

THE REAL HEROES – A REFLECTION

I received a photo recently of a young family celebrating a wedding anniversary. Just a family gathering of Mom, Dad and the young family at the evening meal, to celebrate the occasion. Dad had primed the camera and returned to his place at table before the camera 'clicked' to make a perfect picture. Setting, lighting, composition and all that's accepted to make an award-winning photograph were there. None of it was staged, it just happened. Family life continued, the young family to school, dad to work and mom to manage home affairs.

So many heroic acts, world records broken, works of art created in the daily routine of family life. Yet, not routine, for every day is lived.

The heroic acts of caring and self sacrifice shown daily in family living would make many 'Saints' reconsider their halos, and like the photo, they are accepted as everyday happenings.

We take delight in sporting events and overlook dad's record breaking sprint to be on time, mom's daily marathon in the supermarket and her on-the-spot built-in computer, to balance the weekly budget. And then at the day's end they'll agree, "Nothing much happened today"

112th C.B.S.I. NEWS

This Christmas you can help the fund-raising activities of your local troop by buying your Christmas tree from the shopping centre where, thanks to Superquinn, we have secured sole selling rights, and all proceeds from the sales are for unit funds.

It is intended to carry on with the monthly draw as it has proven to be a very successful venture. However, if you are not in the draw and are jealous of your neighbour winning, then please use any of the committee numbers below in order to receive details.

Eddie Byrne of Idrone who has been helping with the Wednesday cub pack has decided to join us permanently by becoming cub leader. He is taking over from Tony Hynes who is unable to continue with us because of other commitments but assures us of his support. To both of them a big thank you.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

£100 B.J. Regan, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

£50 Mrs. M. Malone, 6 Woodlawn Park.

£25 Mr. T. O'Connor, 96 Coolamber Park.



New members welcome, Inquiries, Phone: 942260 – 511435 – 94809

The unit Council and Fund Raising Committee wish to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors and friends for their support during 1983 and to wish them a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

A Christmas Show – for young school-going children (4 - 10 years) – in aid of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children – organised by their Templeogue Committee – on Sunday 18th December at St. Colmcille's Junior School, Knocklyon from 3 – 5 p.m. Punch & Judy – games – Santa. Enquiries to 942207 (after 6 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS FAIR – GRAND DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize	Emer Mullaney 9 Gartan Avenue, Glasneven	Patchwork Quilt
2nd Prize	Linda Boland, 32, Dargle Wood	Bicycle
3rd Prize	Olive Bruen, 4, Ashton Lawn	Hamper
4th Prize	Ann Mallon 136, Glenvara Park	Turkey Voucher
5th Prize	Pauline Boylan 96 Dargle Wood	Ham Voucher

PAT SWAN



Registered Fuel Merchant

1 Knocklyon Cottages
Templeogue, Dublin 16

FOR POLISH AND ENGLISH COAL
IN SEALED BAGS
SLACK AND ANTHRACITES
CALL or PHONE 945733
PROMPT DELIVERY

Happy Christmas
From



Office
73 Idrone Drive,
Knocklyon,
Dublin 16.
Tel: 941633

Depot
Convent Lane,
Grange Road,
Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14.

*BEST ENGLISH COAL *SLACK
*ANTHRACITES *NUGGETS
*DELIVERY WITHIN 2 DAYS
941633

SPECIAL OFFER

Great discounts on all replacement aluminium windows, doors and porches. Superior products.
10 years guarantee.

Bonded Company.

Ring now 515063



ST. COLMCILLES' – WHAT'S ON IN THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Thursday Dec. 22nd, 8 p.m. **Service of Reconciliation**

Remember, in the Sacrament of Penance, we are celebrating God's forgiving us, a truly joyful event and one which should, as far as possible, be experienced as such. Some of us, perhaps, are victims of an unfortunate emphasis on judgement, humiliation and unnecessary detail. This sacramental celebration will be quite different. At it, we pray and prepare together, listen to God's word to us and make common thanksgiving. Upwards of ten priests will be on hand to receive a brief confession of sin and to give absolution.

There will be further explanation at the ceremony. Meanwhile, let us just remember that we are all sinners dearly loved by God, and his forgiveness is ours for the asking.

Friday Dec. 23rd

A day of penance

... as from now on is every Friday! Here is an excerpt from the Guidelines issued by the Bishops' Conference, following the coming into force of the New Code of Canon Law:

"Because Friday recalls the crucifixion of Our Lord, it is set aside as a special penitential day. What the Church requires, according to the new code, is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance laid down by the Bishops' Conference.

In accordance with the mind of the universal Church, the Irish Bishops remind their people of the obligation of Friday penance, and instruct them that it may be fulfilled in one or more of the following ways:

- (i) By abstaining from meat or some other food;
- (ii) By abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement;
- (iii) By making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross;
- (iv) By fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps by giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad;
- (v) By going out of our way to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely.

While the form of penance is an option and doesn't have to take the same form every Friday, the obligation to do penance is not. There is a serious obligation to observe Friday as a penitential day. We are confident that the Irish people as a whole will take this obligation to heart. We recommend that each person should choose some form of penance for Fridays, in memory as was Friday abstinence, of the Passion and Death of Our Lord.

Saturday Dec. 24th

Confession: 10.30 – 12.30, 3.00 – 5.00, 7.00 – 9.00
(There will be no Mass at 7 p.m.)

11.30

Special Carol Service led by Parish Choir and Folk Group

Do please come in time. The singing of carols is a wonderful way of preparing for the midnight Mass and entering into the true spirit of Christmas.

12.00

Midnight Mass and Procession to the crib.

Sunday Dec. 25th
Christmas Day

Mass at 8, 9, 10 (Childrens) 11 and 12 noon.

Monday Dec. 26th
St. Stephens Day until
Saturday Dec. 31st.

Masses daily at 10.00, 11.00 and 6.10 (i.e. No mass at 7.10 or 9.00; Mass at 11.00 instead)

Sunday Jan 1st
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Usual Sunday programme: Masses at 7 p.m. (Sat.) 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 7 p.m. (Sunday)

Friday Jan 6th
Feast of Epiphany

Usual Church holy day programme. Masses at; 7 p.m. (Thurs.) 9, 10, 11, 12, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.