



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 1987

Mary gives birth to JESUS in a cave in Bethlehem



shepherds come to adore
the Son of God
who has become a little baby

EDITORIAL

*There were some shepherds
in that part of the country
who were spending the night in the fields,
taking care of their flocks.
An angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone over them
They were terribly afraid,
but the angel said to them,*

*"Don't be afraid!
I am here with good news for you,
which will bring great joy to all the people.
This very day in David's town
your Savior was born – Christ the Lord!
What will prove it to you is this:
you will find a baby wrapped in cloths
and lying in a manger."*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
When the shepherds saw him they told them
what the angel had said about this child.
All who heard it were filled with wonder
at what the shepherds told them.*

*Mary remembered all these things
and thought deeply about them.*

*The shepherds went back, singing praises to God
for all they had heard and seen;
it had been just as the angel had told them.*

Luke 2:8–20

IT'S NOT FUNNY – I DO NOT STOCK ELEPHANTS!



The McMenamain family meet Santa at the Christmas Fair.

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

"God, Our Father, we ask you to bless this tree on which we will place symbols of the Ancestors of Jesus, Our Lord. Bless the footsteps of the children who visit this tree to place their gifts on its branches and help us always to know You in the beauty of Your created world. We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You for ever and ever. Amen."

With these words we asked God's blessing on the Christmas tree on the altar. It reminds us of the beauty of creation and is a symbol of Christmas joy. In it, we combine our own customs of a decorated Christmas tree with fairy lights and tinsel and the Advent custom from Germany of a Jesse tree. The name Jesse comes from the father of King David who was the ancestor of Jesus, and is based on the idea of a "family tree". In Isaiah 11:7 it says: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom".

During Advent, we will hang symbols on our Christmas tree from the Old Testament; symbols that remind us of the events and people from creation onwards, that prepared the world for the birth of Jesus. In this way, we will also prepare ourselves for his coming again in our hearts and lives at Christmas. See if you can identify all the symbols as the weeks go by – a hint to get you started: – look at the creation story in Genesis.

When Christmas day arrives the tree will take on more familiar decorations. May this time of preparation and planning be a happy one for everyone.



DID YOU KNOW? . . .

Mary laid Jesus in a manger because there was no room in the Inn. A manger was a trough where the animals fed and may have been cut out of stone.

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MY CHRISTMAS

by the children of Knocklyon

They sat there quietly — a symphony in navy blue and white — this infant class of beautifully clean boys and girls with shining hair and shining faces. They sat upright, hands clasped and resting on the tiny tables in front of them. Thirty-eight pairs of eyes gazed at me with anticipation and curiosity. The only reason I had warranted their undivided attention was because I was something quite different from the normal run of the class routine — I was a VISITOR — and I was being assessed.

For me, this opportunity to enter the inner sanctum of the classrooms in the Junior School, was to give me a glimpse into the wonderful world of childhood, where honesty, truth and logic reign supreme. I had come to talk with and listen to the thoughts of these young people on the subject of Christmas — and oh, what a joy it was.

Different age groups I found, had different reactions to the Christmas story. To the younger ones, Jesus was the Baby to whom they could all relate. They talked of the Crib and of the donkey and the sheep. Nobody mentioned the Ox — he obviously wasn't too popular. They talked about Santa and all the presents he was bringing, like dolls and prams, tractors, trains, crackers, Christmas Trees, Barbies, Sindys, My Little Pony and cars. I asked one little boy what he would say to Jesus if he met Him. He thought long and hard. "I'd say HI" he replied.

The weather was another topic. Everyone wanted snow on Christmas Day — lots of it with sleighs and snowmen. Perhaps that is what prompted the reply of one little chap to my question, "What present would you give to Jesus?" He considered carefully. "If there was snow" he said "I would give him a nice warm coat." Not to be outdone, one little girl topped this with "I'd give him a LARGE colour Television so he could sit and watch Bosco and he wouldn't have to go out in the cold."

As I moved into the higher classes (there must have been all of one year between their ages) it was quite amazing how attitudes had changed. There seemed to be a growing awareness of other people. The warm cosiness of an enclosed family circle had widened. Jesus and

Christmas had turned into thoughts of sharing and loving, and although all the trimmings and trappings of the season were still there — something else was emerging. I learned that Jesus was very poor. Like the children in Ethiopia he had no money or clothes. He had nothing to keep him warm except the warm breath of the Ox and the ass. They told me that the most important present they could give him was love. "How would you give Him love?" I asked. The hands shot up. "By helping my Mammy", "By sending clothes I don't need to Africa", "By giving some of my toys to poor children in Ireland", "By praying" and the most profound — "By thanking Jesus for everything I get on Christmas Day, because if it wasn't His birthday, we wouldn't get presents". One little girl said she would buy Jesus two tickets to the puppet theatre so he could take his Mammy, and another one with higher ideals said "I think he'd like diamonds".

In this world of ours it often looks as if the true message of Christmas has been lost in the mists of time. The mad race for seeking money, position and worldly possessions seems very far removed from the stable where Jesus was born. It comes almost as a shock to us when someone like Bob Geldof shows publicly his compassion for the starving people of a Third World country.

Listening to the children of Knocklyon it seems impossible that so many adults have forgotten this message. I came away feeling proud yet humble. I could still remember the little Christmas carol which the tinies had sung — "Jesus was a Baby — just like me". Let us hope that as these little ones grow in knowledge and stature, they will keep their childish dreams, their openness to loving and their simple faith.

Eileen Casey

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IMMANUEL . . . GOD WITH US

Even the humble Avonmore milk carton on the breakfast table this morning, (too lazy to organise a jug), is at it — Christmas, I mean. Santa adorns the carton, his reindeers are a patriotic green, his sleigh blue, and Santa himself is in the red! So the Christmas fever is well and truly underway, building up to a crescendo and eventually a varying amount of cold and empty anti-climax.

Santa, as we would expect, was at Superquinn shopping centre, early. At one point he arrived in state by helicopter — probably parked his sleigh at another location. Whereas, outside Newsextra, I had to gently work my way through a queue of young but determined hopefuls, with their guardians — destination, a humble hut where Santa was holding court. Next day he graced our Christmas Fair, with his presence! You've got to hand it to him, he is a man for all seasons and places, and for him, bilocation and much more are . . . no problem! Long may he reign.

And it goes on, and the signs are everywhere and increasing. The young workers at the Youth Club Centre are caught up in it. Early on a cold grey morning recently, one of them was whistling Jingle Bells. You could sense he was happy; and at the time and in his circumstances it took a brave man to be cheerful. O.K. he was performing poor old Jingle Bells very much out of tune, what the heck, he was happy and next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday and all, with St. Paul urging us: "Be happy at all times".

The pace increases as Christmas draws ever nearer. The adult Christmas is a confusing mixture of contradictions, almost analysed out of existence, commercialised beyond recognition — outbursts of charity, giving, scepticism, loneliness, emptiness, feverish activities, cards, presents, last minute shopping and those loaded shopping trolleys — how do poor people cope?

The likes of me, with my limited shopping, indulgence in the odd bag of doughnuts (6 for £1.) dog food for my ecumenical dog friend, Bonzo, alias Bruce (or vice versa), have time to observe. And I muse to myself about the various faces pushing the loaded trolleys — smiling faces, poker faces, anxious ones, lonely ones, bold faces, frustrated faces, what's behind the mask? Then the weary shop attendants bravely keeping up a courtesy, in the face of tiredness and doubtless provocation.

Need I remind you of the hundred and one other Christmas pressures but enough . . . And where is the Lord in the midst of this not so mild pandemonium? Perhaps in all this confusion and ultimate emptiness, the message is clearer than ever. The Christmas thing apart from me, is nothing, sounding brass and tinkling symbol. I am the only lasting value, the same yesterday, to-day and for ever — Jesus, Immanuel, God-with-us "the Lord is born for us . . . Wonderful God, Prince of Peace, Father of the world to come, and his kingship will never end . . ."

Pat Fitz.

TRAVELLING ON

*"No room at the Inn"
They said,
Had they known
Would exception have been made?
There is still no room,
Instead,
Gifts of Court Orders, writs, rejection
Await them.
Frantic activity
To prevent their coming,
Wise men, Foolish men,
Anxiety.
Lights are burning bright
Christmas is a prayer
To show we care,
Do we?
We prepare gifts,
The gift of love is confused
We need a star to light the Way
But the Star is being
Re-directed.
Interference in our lives is feared,
A price is paid to prevent their coming
What price is Living?*



DID YOU KNOW? . . .

The tradition of the Christmas tree goes back as far as the seventh century. A christian monk called Boniface prevented the tribes of Germany from offering a human sacrifice to their God, Odin. The victim who had been tied to an oak tree was set free and Boniface told the people about the love and mercy of God. He offered them a young fir tree and he and his companions placed candles on it so that it shone out in the darkness.

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The Care Bear Girls!



Noelle Slattery, Susan Mursey, Lisa Tierney, Maeve Ryan in a happy mood.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

As always, the Christmas Fair was a great success again this year. The Bottle Stall was cleared out in record time, as were the Groceries.

Questions are being asked, however, about the Wheel of Fortune being rigged! How did one particular ticket seller (no names mentioned) manage to sell 41 winning tickets? What's even more mysterious is that he sold a winning ticket to Fr. Arthur — that resulted in him getting the portable T.V. Wouldn't you say that was a conspiracy?!!

Congratulations to Jane Lehane of Knockaire who won the Microwave, and also to Ailbhe Curran of Knocklyon who guessed that the teddy was called BONO — it's obvious when you know. And what about Michael Leonard who guessed the correct weight of the Christmas Cake — who'd have thought he'd be an authority on matters culinary!

As usual Santa was in great demand and was kept very busy all day. Mind you, I think he could have done with a Hot Whisky — pity there weren't any this year. The Lucky Dips were a tremendous success with our young patrons, and the Tuck Shop did a brisk trade. Thankfully, the Tea-room and Country Kitchen were happy respites to both volunteers and visitors alike, with a welcome cup of tea or coffee and a piece of gâteau (for those not watching their figure).

Of course Leopardstown couldn't hold a candle to our own horse-racing which was a "roaring" success with our young punters; for those not old enough to indulge in a flutter, cartoons were available. Other gamblers headed for the Ring-toss and similar games. The Book Stall provided ample reading material for all bookworms; whereas bargain-seekers found a happy hunting ground at the Fancy Goods and White Elephant.

The Church Shop solved many problems for those looking for Christmas gifts, while those who hadn't bought their decorations availed of the opportunity to buy "at the right price". The Good as New proved to be a great attraction as in recent years.

The ICA had a fantastic display of crafts on offer while what amounted to a creche was run in the top hall with rides for toddlers. Brownies were kept on their toes all day on their stall which had a huge range of goods on offer.

Many thanks goes to all those who put such work into the organisation of this year's Fair, especially all those young and less-young people who helped in setting up the school, both before and afterwards. And of course thanks is also due to you without whom there'd never have been such a rip-roaring success. HERE'S TO NEXT YEAR!

Fiona Lynch

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners in the competition this month, who were:

Under 8's:

Florence Lavelle (8) 22 Boden Park
Sandra Carroll (6) 37 Dargle Wood

Over 8's:

Yasmina Lenahan (12) 47 Cremorne
Elaine Halpin (12) 45 Cremorne

Two special prizes for outstanding effort have been awarded to Martha Connolly (10) of Knockaire and Betty Samano (10) also of Knockaire. All prize-winners will receive £5. The committee was bowled over by the very high standard of the entries received and had a very hard time deciding from nearly 200 entries. We would like to thank Andrew, our photographer who sponsored the prizes for the last two competitions.

Ivan Morrin

PENITENTIAL SERVICE



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OUR READERS WRITE . . .

Dear Editor,

Flashing lights, good food, plenty of dancing to golden oldies, chatting to friends, meeting new people — Yes, I speak about Dargle Wood Residents' Association 10th Anniversary Night Out, held in Templeogue Tennis Club on 14th November.

I was delighted to see some past residents there and [redacted] because [redacted] from the [redacted] contribution. [redacted] there was [redacted] ability to say [redacted] making the night possible, to the staff of Templeogue Tennis Club, and most especially to all the members of the Committee for making the night such a success.

We hope to have your continued support throughout the year, particularly at our forthcoming A.G.M. With this continued support Dargle Wood will be an even nicer place to live in.

Geraldine Natton-Donnelly
Chairperson, Dargle Wood Residents' Association

Dear Editor,

The following motion, proposed by Cllr. Mary Muldoon, seconded by Cllr. John Hannon, both members of the Knocklyon/Ballyboden Post-Primary Committee, was adopted unanimously by the Public Meeting of 2nd November, 1987:

"That the Knocklyon/Ballyboden communities appeal to the Minister for Education to reply with urgency and specific information to the queries raised by the committee in its letter to her dated 11th October, 1987."

The reply received from the Department of Education quoted hereunder.

"As regards the numbers of intake places reserved by Post Primary Schools in the general area for pupils from the Knocklyon/Ballyboden areas, the position is that intake policy is for the Management Authorities of the schools concerned to decide. It would not be appropriate for the minister to direct schools to follow a particular course of action in this matter. However, your Committee can be assured that sufficient intake places are available to cater for all pupils seeking entry to Post Primary Education in 1988."

Yours sincerely,
Mary Muldoon

Dear Editor,

Community Games

For the past eight years, Parish Residents Associations, Chess Clubs, Draughts Clubs have run off local competitions and then represented Knocklyon at Dublin, Leinster and All-Ireland level. Our children have been courteous and dignified both in defeat and victory — have been, (as they almost always are), a credit to their Parish.

This magnificent work can be credited, for the most part, to one man — Gerry Hoey. Gerry was secretary, Chief Organiser and motivator of the Community Games in the Parish. After eight years and for reasons best known to himself, Gerry has retired from the Community Games and passes his mantle.

I was very privileged to work with him on the local Committee and I am sorry to see him retire. For my own part, and as Chairman of the Knocklyon Youth Club, I wish to thank Gerry for those magnificent eight years. The obvious pleasure given and taken by all the participants over the years is the only thanks Gerry will get — he deserves more.

Yours etc.,
Michael Coleman

P.S. Isn't it ironic that an organisation that, in 1987, catered for more than 1,600 youthful participants and involved more than 500 households could attract only 7 (seven) people to its A.G.M. I hope that when the next General Meeting is called in early 1988 to plan for next Summer, more than 7 will feel the desire to actively participate. Of the 7, five were parents and two were not.

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The school team which performed so well in the Schools' League

SCOUTING IN KNOCKLYON

Scouting in our Parish is very active indeed. There are over 180 members of the Knocklyon Unit. Our Unit members are made up as follows:—

Two Cub Packs which cater for 72 boys between the ages of 8 and 11 yrs. Three Scout Troops which cater for 92 boys between the ages of 11 to 15 yrs and the Venture Group which caters for 15 lads between the ages of 15 to 19 yrs.

To work as a team we have adult leaders and Committee Members, such as the Finance Committee.

Each Scout group meets one night a week in the Schools and Parish Centre. They go on week-end activities such as hiking, Rock climbing, Camping and Hostelling.

By being involved, boys develop their personal skills and learn to work and get on in a group. We hope over the coming months to keep you informed of what the Scouts have been up to. We are always on the look out for Adult Helpers and Leaders so if you feel you can help, please contact us.

25 Cubs were invested to the Scouts on Saturday 28th November.

Gerry Daly

TABLE QUIZ

The Table Quiz in support of the Youth & Community Centre, which was held in the Laurels Pub, Whitehall Rd., on Monday 30th November, was a great success.

There was a very good turn-out with 22 teams competing in what was a most enjoyable evening. £200 was raised and the Committee would like to thank all those who took part and look forward to another Quiz sometime in the New Year when, hopefully, the turn-out will be even better.

A special thanks goes to the following who very kindly donated raffle prizes:

Kieron Ellis, Superquinn Knocklyon
Martin Blake, Quinnsnorth, Rathfarnham
Maurice Byrne, C.B.S. Records
Eamon and the staff of News Extra

Great hospitality was extended by the Laurels Pub. Many thanks to Tom Hughes and his staff.

Youth Club Committee

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Good Show

Well done to Conor, Shaun and Brian O'Hara from Ashton, Lisa Kelly from Idrone and Karla McLoughlin from Knocklyon Heights, all members of the Xaviar Goodwin Drama Group which recently staged the show "Grease" at Sancta Maria School.

Good Sport

What a great achievement for the Senior School football team to reach the final of the Schools league in Croke Park. Unfortunately they were beaten by two points. Congratulations to Kevin King who received the trophy for "Man of the Series". The trainer of the team, Mr. McGabhann is a star in his own right, having recently won the Leinster Mens Doubles Badminton Championships. Well done Brian.

Good Work

Many thanks to the children of the Senior School who brought in £1650. for the Irish Wheelchair Association, and to those children who gave so generously from their own pocket money to the Simon Community.

Good Luck

Donal Garvey and Michael O'Briain are part of the Bridge team representing Ireland in the semi final of the Europe Cup later this month in Ostend. We wish them the best of luck in this prestigious event.

Good Girl!

Congratulations to Fiona Lynch, one of our illustrious Committee members who graduated in Public Relations and received her award during the month.

Good Bye!

We send our best wishes to Eamon Flynn, Manager of News Extra, who has been promoted and transferred to Dun Laoghaire, to open a new Branch.

Good Man!

Golfer of the Year (Knocklyon Golf Society) Sean Cantwell received his prize of a television at the Society's Dinner Dance in Ballinascorney Golf Club recently. Congratulations, Sean!

CHRISTMAS TREAT

Why not come and join in the Christmas spirit on Wednesday, 23rd December at 7.30 p.m. in the Church.

During the past number of weeks over 130 children have been busily rehearsing for a Christmas Show which will involve lots of drama, mime, dance and Christmas Carols. All the children are members of the O'Neill School of Speech and Drama and the Childrens Choir.

This show is not to be missed. So come along and bring the children.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Items and adverts for inclusion in the January issue of the Newsletter should be handed into the Presbytery by Monday 18th January. The Newsletter will be circulated from 28th January. Enquiries re advertising to Pat at 947493 or telephone the Presbytery at 941204.

If you have any news for our Hotlyon just drop a note into the Presbytery marked "Newsletter Hotlyon".

The Newsletter Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year to all those who help to make the Newsletter possible - our printers, contributors, advertisers, the boys and girls in the Senior School who work like little beavers to collate and deliver the Newsletter each month and to all our readers.

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 at very reasonable prices also in stock. The shop is open after all Masses on Sundays and during the week.

KNOCKLYON BRIDGE CLUB

Stephenson Cup (played on 9th and 16th November):
Winners: Mrs. A. Doolin and Mrs. M. Stephenson.
2nd - Mrs. C. Fagan and Mrs. A. Kelly. 3rd - Mrs. J. Keane and Mrs. C. Carr.

1st Session: Mrs. M. Kearney and Mrs. M. O'Sullivan
2nd Session: Mrs. M. Ryan and Mrs. N. Farrell
Best Gross: Fr. J. Walsh and Miss P. Synott.

112th KNOCKLYON SCOUT UNIT November Draw Winners

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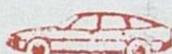
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