DECEMBER 2021

Drumcondra Parish

Corpus Christi News

CHRISTMAS 2021

The little town of Bethlehem beckons us all once again to revisit and reflect on that baby who came into our world some 2000 years ago. We are invited back there year on year at this time to ponder the One who was the fulfilment of the longing of many generations; those who waited and continued to believe that a promise made by God would be fulfilled. Each of us makes all sorts of promises which we may or may not find it possible to fulfil. In Bethlehem we discover that God is faithful to his promises to us. This child is the hope held out to each of us, he is that very special presence of God, the God who longs to be with us. Faithful people had continued to hope for many generations, even when God appeared to be silent. In this child we discover that God really delights in us, we are the destination of his affections.

There was a cosmic celebration at his birth, a throng of angelic beings filled that night with song and light. The cosmos shared in the joy that we had received such an unbelievable gift, that we are considered worthy of such consideration. God really thinks so much of each of us, he wishes to come and share his life with us. We are invited to give space in our lives to his son Jesus. He wants to be part of our families as he was in the lives of Mary and Joseph.

Whether we struggle with little faith or feel that our faith is strong, whether tired or full of energy and enthusiasm God wants to be with you in Jesus. He wants to reignite our Hope, he wants us to reimagine our lives in his presence.

Our world has many challenges and difficulties, our individual lives equally so, but we have that assurance that Jesus wants to be with us on our journey through life. Indeed, we might feel like that Innkeeper in Bethlehem embattled with everyday demands thrust upon us that we don't have the time to reflect on what this baby brings to us.

There are many uncertainties and stresses in preparation for Christmas in a time of Covid which challenge each of us. But it is worth making that extra effort to reflect that a wonderful gift has been given to us by our loving God. In Jesus, God is with us and remains with us and in him all will be well for us. In prayer, we can turn to him in hope for all the things that he wishes to give us, that is more than we dare to ask or imagine.

Wishing all our parishioners and readers a **Very Happy Christmas** and the Lord's abiding presence in 2022.

M O'S

WINTER TIME

At this time of year, as the dark days will soon start to get a little brighter, one wonders who was the very first person to notice that perhaps the sun god wasn't angry anymore and the he (or she) would come back and warm the earth again. The people may not have given each other meerkats dressed up as Santa Claus (or any of the other strange things which turn up now at Christmas) but no doubt celebrations got going in late December.

This was all pre-history, of course, so far as humans are concerned, but animals and birds knew all about it—and still do, as poet Edward Thomas put it so beautifully:-

THAW by Edward Thomas

Over the land freckled with snow half-thawed
The speculating rooks at their nest cawed
And saw from elm-tops, delicate as flower of grass,
What we below could not see, winter pass.

P.D.

We extend the sympathy of all our parishioners to the family and friends of::

Bro. Vianney Kerr, Vera Redmond, Rose Hand, Thomas Moylan, Rita Mulhall, John Granville, Kevin Crowley, Dominic Callaghan And Eddie Doyle.
May they enjoy Eternal rest and peace.

ON LINE APPEAL FOR FAMILIES IN FOOD POVERTY - DECEMBER 2021

We in Crosscare need your support to help families experiencing food poverty this Christmas. We are working with hundreds of families and children in Dublin who struggle to get basic food supplies.

Families need our help this Christmas, not just for Christmas but in the months after Christmas, which many people find challenging.

Crosscare helps people with food parcels and meals in our cafes and food banks in the short term, and we work with them to move out of food poverty in the long term.

We keep in touch with families, helping them to help themselves. We help them with budgeting, healthy eating, and long-term housing and welfare support they may need, giving them the dignity and independence to provide for themselves.

Due to Covid restrictions, the online appeal for donations replaces the food collection in parishes in previous years. Your ongoing support for Crosscare makes a huge difference to those most in need. We are asking for donations to continue this vital work at Christmas and into 2022.

Please help us to help them. Support our appeal to end food poverty by giving what you can online at www.crosscare.ie/donate or call 01 8360011

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, **8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024**.

THE GARDEN CENTRE - GRACE PARK ROAD

A large selection of Christmas wreaths, Christmas gift ideas winter baskets, shrubs are now in stock. Contact **gardencentre@childvision.ie** to place an order. All profits go to Childvision fundraising.

ChildVision
National Education Centre for Blind Children

See www.childvision.ie for further information.

Thanks to all who helped with the delivery of our newsletters throughout the year. It has been a difficult year and your continued assistance has been very much appreciated.

Arrangements for the Christmas Liturgy are on the Christmas card with this newsletter.

Fr. Martin, Bernadette, the Sacristans and all the Volunteers wish all our parishioners a safe, joyful And peaceful Christmas.
Happy Christmas to all our readers.

SYNODAL PATHWAY

In order to revitalize the dynamics of governance of the Church, Pope Francis has invited all baptised Christians throughout the world to examine the way the work and mission of the Church is carried out. This new process is called a synodal pathway. A synodal church, Pope Francis says, is a church that listens, "in which everyone has something to learn...all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit in order to know what he says to the churches"

Parishioners will be invited to participate in a series of local meetings to take place between February and April 2022. At these meetings there will be prayer, reflection and discussion on a number of set questions and a record will be kept of the content of the discussions. The purpose is to create a context that allows God through His Spirit to articulate what he wants from his Church at this time, it is a process of discernment of God's Will.

We are very grateful to the three parish volunteers, Carol Ann, Elaine and Rose who have agreed to become animators/facilitators to guide the parish in this process. We will be in touch with parishioners in the New Year about how we move forward as a parish with this process.

ALEXIAN BROTHERS - We are sorry to hear that the Brothers have left Drumcondra. For very many years they ran the "245" drop-in club for people who have experienced mental health problems. They were also very obliging in making rooms available for prayer and other groups in the parish.

The Brothers made many friends here and we send every good wish for the future to the remaining Brothers, who are going to different parts of Ireland, and thank them for their hard work and many kindnesses over the years.

Due to Covid restrictions since March 2020, when we were unable to carry out baptism ceremonies for a long period, we have now worked through the backlog of requests received here in the parish. ***We welcome all the children who were baptised here in this church into our Christian community***.

Should you wish to register your child for baptism please contact the parish office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 6PM

Sunday 10.30 AM

Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am

ALL MASSES ARE STREAMED ON OUR WEBCAM AT

corpuschristi drumcondra@gmail.com

Parish Staff Contacts

Monsignor Martin O'Shea
23 Clare Road

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Bernadette Buckley
Parish Secretary

Office No. 8360085

Mon-Fri 9.30am-11.30am

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