DECEMBER 2022

Drumcondra Parish

Corpus Christi News

CHRISTMAS 2022

The time for carols, mince pies family gatherings and Christmas festivities is with us again. There are plenty of preparations in our homes. Here in our church, we have decorated our Advent Wreath with its candles, the sign that we look to the guidance of Christ as the Light in our lives. We have the task of setting up our Crib. It is a colourful reminder to us of the mystery that we are celebrating. God has become one of us humans entering our world among ordinary people like Mary, Joseph and shepherds. Many people in the parish will also have cribs in their homes, a reminder to us that God wants nothing more than to be welcomed into our homes.

God was not happy simply to say that he loves us. One day, in time and space he became human, taking flesh and blood in a little child. He became one of us and was able to love and cry and play. He was Jesus of Nazareth son of Mary, son of God. If we have the gift of faith, we cannot but be astounded and amazed at the mystery which is set before us in Jesus each Christmas. He is God and yet fully human. That is the mystery which we return to each year to ponder at Christmas. God is born for us, works among us, speaks to us and dies for us. Jesus brings us to God and brings God to us. He is the bridge that brings God into the heart of our world. In him we are plunged into the heart of God. He is God's love taking flesh in among us reaching out to us. In Jesus is revealed to us the true mystery and possibility of who we are as humans because in Jesus we are invited to enter the life of God. In Jesus the presence of God shines out in the centre of the world. This is as true today as it was when Jesus was born.

The birth of Jesus reminds us of all the difficult challenges his family faced in the circumstances into which he was born. Many families at this time face extraordinary challenges and it is not always easy to find solutions.

We are invited each year to welcome Jesus into our lives and homes as Mary and Joseph did. His presence will bring deep joy and peace in our lives, but as with Mary and Joseph, he will bring his own challenges. He is present especially in the lives of those who struggle because of the circumstances in which they find themselves.

He is present in those whom we may find difficult to get on with. We are challenged to try not to ignore the presence of Jesus in any of our fellow human beings, some of whom we don't find it easy to welcome. Walking in the light of Christ is never easy for us.

Each year again we hear that call from Jesus to make a home for him in our hearts our kitchens, sitting rooms and in our everyday lives. He also challenges us to make a place for him who is the one who has many needs.

Wishing all our parishioners every Blessing from the Lord and the gift of Peace in your hearts this Christmas. M O'S

Christ Prince of Peace

We proclaim Christ as Prince of Peace. It is the Blessing that we extend to each other during our church celebrations. Each of us has that wish for peace in our homes and hearts. At this time, we remember the many places in our world where families and communities are torn apart by warfare and strife. As we know it is the vulnerable, the innocent both young and elderly who bear a heavy weight of suffering. We remember especially the people of Ukraine where
families have borne much needless suffering and stress. We welcome those who have come to our country and communities seeking respite and shelter from the ravages of war. We pray for those who work to bring peace and ask the Lord to open all hearts to the gift of peace.

Rita Costello RIP, an Appreciation

The death has occurred on October 16th last of Rita Costello of Lambay Road, Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council. Rita was a parishioner of Corpus Christi for many decades. She was marked by a deep commitment to her family but also to her parish family. Her work on Parish Pastoral Council was just the most recent service to the parish, she has served in most roles in the parish including her work in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Her's was a life of service to the parish, whether that was helping to organise the diocesan Mass for the sick or training as a lay minister.

She was always generous of her time and her talents which were grounded in her deep faith. Rita was a woman of boundless energy and positivity. Her "can do" attitude was a wonder to behold. It was always "leave it to me" and the task was done without any fanfare. Even through her illness she remained upbeat and cheerful while continuing her work for the parish. She had a great sense of joy and fun. She was a great friend and support to us all and is greatly missed.

Our condolences go to her husband, John, children Yvonne and Kenneth and grandchildren.

Oh good and faithful servant …. Come and share your Master's happiness. Mathew 25:21

Fintan.

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

Philomena Kelly, Rita Costello, Elizabeth Ryan

May they rest in peace

UNTO US

Past the inn with ne'er a vacancy
Raucous revelry receding …

'Round the back to the stables.
Animals stirring, then still,
Breathing warmth unto cold night air.

Aloft a movement of wings.

In a makeshift crib
on a bed of straw -
under a thousand stars -
A newborn babe …
Gentled to her breast
by a young Jewess.

And by their side
a quiet man of few words,
wondering …

Sean Walsh

Volunteers

A huge thank you to all our many, many wonderful volunteers who generously and quietly give their time and energy to serving our community here in Corpus Christi and ensure that our church continues to welcome and serve all who come here to worship and pray throughout the year. We are grateful to those who have decorated our church for the Christmas season. This year we express our gratitude to Carmel Hickey who after many years of organising the roster for Eucharistic Ministers has now passed on that responsibility to Noreen O'Neill. They are among those whose assistance is 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 joyful and peaceful Christmas.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 6PM

Sunday 10.30 AM

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am

ALL MASSES ARE STREAMED ON OUR WEBCAM AT corpuschristi drumcondra.ie

Parish Staff Contacts

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A Christmas Like No Other

Recollections of Christmasses past are always fraught with difficulty. A child's view of events has its own unique prism through which stories are woven. I'm brought back to a Christmas in 1951 when our family lived in a neighbouring parish. It was the week before Christmas and we children fought and fretted over lists for Santa; jigsaws, colouring books, a gun and holster, maybe a doll and pram, were the longed for toys. Our mam did what all mams do, worked herself into a tizzy, trying to keep all the balls in the air and manage expectations. And her biggest task of all? Working out the finances in those more straitened times to see if the money would stretch to a large chicken, two veg and the ingredients for a cake and plum pudding. While also trying to keep a lid on her children's wish list.

I well remember that week before Christmas. All of us in the kitchen of our small two up two down. I could throw in a touch of Victorian nostalgia and say that the window panes were tinged with a seasonal frost. Mam had been paying into a Christmas savings club since the previous June and had just received the final payout from 'the man at the door'. Trusting times indeed! Mam was also minding the money for several neighbours who would not be at home when 'the man' was due to call. She tucked the money into an old navy blue handbag which she then stuffed under a chair. Later that evening, she would go to the neighbours' homes to deliver their long awaited cash.

My three year old brother Larry was, as always, getting under everyone's feet. Tormenting the dog, opening the cupboards under the sink, pulling out the pots and pans and making a racket that was a mere background noise to the general mayhem. So no one noticed when the racket stopped. Larry had climbed under the chair, reached for the handbag and quick as a flash had thrown it into the fire. Not a slow feed of note by note…….but the whole bag, all in one go.

My mother saw the horror unfold before her eyes, powerless to stop it. The fire flared up in a sickening blue blaze. An acrid smell of burning plastic filled the room. And my mother responded in the only way possible. She fainted onto the floor.

With that lucky amnesia of childhood, I don't remember any more except my father coming into the room at that precise moment. I don't remember the aftermath; the total shock and sheer disbelief, the doctor being sent for, the scrabbling among the embers with a poker, the frantic dash to extended family to see if there were any funds available with which to repay the neighbours. And whether or not the neighbours ever got to hear the full story, I never did find out. Nor did I ever find out the amounts involved. Was it twenty pounds or two hundred? How much would that be in today's currency?

Seventy years have rolled by. Dear parents long departed. My boarded up fireplace won't see any live flames. Money is more plentiful. Santa will come laden with goodies. And brother Larry is alive and well and totally oblivious to the drama of that Christmas in 1951……..

E.C.