DECEMBER 2023
CORPUS CHRISTI NEWS
DRUMCONDRA PARISH

A Christmas thought in 2023

The church begins its year in Advent. The calendar year is not far behind. Advent is a season of beginnings which invites up to hope, to have dreams to imagine a better future. The readings at Masses present us with reasons to hope. We are invited to start again. We light the candles on the Advent Wreath. They symbolise Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. They touch emotions and desires that lie deep inside each one of us. As each candle is lit our expectation grows, just as earlier generations waited in hope for the coming of a Saviour. The vestments are purple which symbolise Christ as Sovereign, the one who can transform our world. This is the Good News which the world awaits. John the Baptist encourages us to prepare ourselves. Make the paths straight so that Jesus can find a way into our lives, he wishes to find a way to make us people who exude hope in the midst of such darkness in the world around us. We each need to begin again to be people of hope. Our world needs the gifts symbolised by our Advent candles.

We are conscious of the many troubles and disasters which we face as the human family. Our televisions and media outlets inundate us with accounts of wars, the threat posed by climate change and ensuing famines and destruction of our mother earth. I find it more difficult to tune into news reports as such a dark picture is presented.

Isaiah tells us that a people who walked in darkness has see a great light. Someone is coming who will bring light and hope to our world. “Look, I bring you news of great joy” the angels proclaim to the surprised shepherds.

The message of an angel to a young Jewish girl is “Don’t be afraid.” The Lord is at hand. He is Mighty God and Prince of Peace. He is the one who will save us from the evil and madness which has infested our world. What an unbelievable promise! Dare we hope?

Jesus comes to us. He is the mysterious child who reveals the heart of God to us – the God of unquenchable love.

This message is for each of us. I need to receive this message again at this time. Have I heard that message or have I become tired of listening or bored? This message is the most wonderful gift I can receive. Who do I bring that gift to this Christmas.

Yes, there are so many troubles and worries in our lives and world, but we can let the light of Christ shine into this darkness.

The last candle we light on our Advent Wreath symbolises Love, that unbelievable act of God sending his Son to redeem humanity. Everyone is invited to embrace that gift which promises us everything.

Wishing all our parishioners and readers every Blessing for a Joyful and Happy Christmas.

M O'S

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. We thank the members of our numerous committees. We acknowledge those who prepare our church for liturgies, those who work in our sacristy and Office, and all those who help with delivery of our newsletter throughout the year. Of course, we remember those who were with us last year and have now passed on to the Lord and are greatly missed by families and friends.

Arrangements for the Christmas Liturgy are on the Christmas card with this newsletter. All staff and volunteers in Corpus Christi wishes all our parishioners a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and the Lord's abiding presence in 2024.

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

FRANK EGAN
MAY LYNCH

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

THE INNKEEPER'S LOG

One

Yes?! A, a bed for the - ? You haven't a hope!

I've never seen such crowds in Bethlehem!..

You, your wife is?.. Oh… Is she - due?.. Oh-hh…

Well look, round the back - the stables.

No big deal but ye'll be in out of the weather.

And welcome… No, no charge… All the best…

Two

She's like that, my missus. When I told her, she was quick

to rake the cinders… kindle… flame… wood… put on the kettle.

'Then hurried with a servant to the stables:

a sheet, blanket, hot water, food – the leftover from

the evening special… Me, I went to bed.

Three

For all their haste, they weren't in time.

He had delivered with his bare hands a healthy male…

Jo – Joseph… Seamlessly…

So I was told at breakfast.

In truth, they were in awe

at how little remained to be done…

Mother and babe doing well – and father,

quietly proud of his well, handiwork…

SEAN WALSH

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 Message From The Grinch

It's the most dangerous time of the year'. So crooned the lovely Andy Williams when he first burst onto American TV screens in 1963. Well, if he didn't, he should have.
Oh the Christmases of yore and the perils that abounded. Let us reflect. The Christmas Day when our neighbour's toddler swallowed Barbie's pink handbag and mammy Kathleen asked our gang to take him to Temple Street. She wasn't being uncaring, it's just that his colour had returned by then and she had to get lunch for twelve. Or that time Bobby scoffed six selection boxes and spent an expensive St. Stephen's Day in the Veterinarian Hospital in Ballsbridge. Bobby was a giant hoover of a dog who just revelled in festive occasions.The hospital scan showed up tin foil wrappings that staff reckoned had been there since the previous Easter. The same Vet hospital saw us present ourselves again on Christmas Day, a couple of years later, with a kitten let loose in a Christmas tree who ingested part of a glass bauble. I'm glad to report that all were home, safe and sound, in time for turkey leftovers at tea. Another Christmas, a different county, elderly Aunt Sheelagh, bravely venturing forth in new hat and woolly scarf, mowed down on the path by a crazed toddler with a new doll and pram.
But there is an area measuring three metres by fifteen metres that is more dangerous at Christmas than at any other time of year. It is Aisle Two in a supermarket near you. It carries the innocuous signage of 'Confectionery', 'Crisps' and 'Soft Drinks' but should be labelled ' High Cholesterol', ' Morbid Obesity' and 'Heart Attack'. A deep ravine, designed to entice and entrap. The hexagonal plastic boxes of Quality Street, Roses, Heroes, Celebrations and Maltesers, shiny tins of biscuits, all stacked high like kaleidoscopic columns of basalt. A deadly Giant's Causeway. The bumper packs of crunchy, salty, crisps, chip sticks, nuts and twiglets in gaily coloured cartons. Boxes and bags of pure diabetes and hypertension.
My husband is a great fan of Aisle Two. He calls it the scenic route to the staples of bread and milk and if several of these coloured boxes and crinkly packages should fall into your trolley, then what's a body to do? And what about those boxes purchased in October to be 'kept until Christmas' ? I give you a general air of contentment every weekend thus far, accompanied by several unexplained trips to the boot of the car, the sound of soft plastic being ruffled, bulges under the couch cushions and a faint fragrance of Cadbury's Fruit and Nut wafting through the air. Remember Augustus Gloop? He's alive and well and living at the end of your road.
So by all means scoff away to your heart's content but do book appointments in early January for an angiogram, a liver function test and an ECG…..and a dental check up wouldn't go amiss. And don't forget cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

Oh and somehow have a very happy Christmas everyone.

Sara Robinson