

# THE NEVER CHANGING CHRISTMAS STORY.

There are so many aspects to the Nativity of Jesus, that we almost always ignore how ever current the story is. Today the birth of a child is a cause of great celebration as it has been down the ages. Here comes new life, new hope, continuity, a joy for old age, a bright future ahead.

Was it any different for Mary and Joseph? We know the background to their betrothal, and sometimes we think of Joseph as being just the guardian of Mary and the Child.



And yet it is impossible for Joseph not to have been filled with wonder and awe at this Child who will be identified always as the carpenter's son.

Looking back with our modern eyes we see so many similarities with today. Joseph, and Mary must seek shelter in Bethlehem, since the baby is about to be born.

Today, news reports tell us with delight of babies coming early, born in a taxi, delivered on the roadside or in the ambulance as it races to the maternity ward. Afterwards, it makes the newspapers, parents and their new-born radiant with joy, those who helped in the delivery with beaming smiles.

We trust that Mary and Joseph were helped not only by the presence of the shepherds but by those nearby, since in childbirth that's what people do.

As we think on that scene familiar from our Christmas cards, we call to mind what the poet, William Blake, has written in his beautiful poem 'A Cradle Song'

"Sweet babe in thy face,

A Holy image I can trace".

a baby whose birth, life, and death has changed the world.

Today, Jesus' birth is more relevant than ever as we seek to find that purity of vision which He came to bring to the world. Even to remember His own words, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:2-4)

As the children gather round the Crib on Christmas eve, perhaps we too might hope that we can renew in ourselves that innocent hope which Christ came to give us on that night over two thousand years ago.



# Christmas Schedule.

Full details of the Christmas Masses, Confessions, Carol Services etc. in the Parish and a calendar for 2020 together with a Christmas Dues envelope is enclosed with this issue of the Parish Newsletter.

Please note that when you are returning the Christmas Dues, to write your name and address on the envelope so that we can send an acknowledgement.



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## **RECENT BAPTISMS**

# We welcome into the Christian family those children baptised recently in our Church

- ♣ Síofra Conlon
- ♣ Rian Hession
- 1 Darragh Burke
- ♣ Rose Byrne
- ♣ Lily-Rose Jiménez-Cox
- † Conor Lennon
- ♣ Fiadh O'Keeffe
- ♣ Ruby Coleman
- ♣ Oliver Coleman
- Stasia Smyth
- ♣ Fionn Boyle
- ☆ Kim Dolman
- ♣ Avril Donnelly
- 🕆 Béibhinn Duff
- Conor Dowling
   Con
- ♣ Alex Toal



## **RECENTLY DECEASED**

## Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the following

- ☆ Kevin MacHale
- Joseph Lynch
- Jane Fanning
- ♦ Vera Daly

- ♣ Colin Flynn
- ♣ Thomas (Tom) Farrell
- 🕆 Joe Behan
- 🕆 Eileen O'Dea
- ♣ Sheila O'Leary
- ₱ Thomas Culhane



# **Wedding Bells**

James Gleeson & Lisa Devlin Christopher Oonan & Noirín Early Stephen Mather & Tara McManus



# **EDITORS NOTE**

On behalf of the newsletter team, we would like to thank all our readers, distributors, advertisers, contributors, Fr. Tom and the parish clergy, as well as the Parish Council, for their continuous support.

We wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas with the hope of a Prosperous New year

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

#### Arthur Tonge R.I.P.

The family of the late Arthur Tonge wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following our sad loss.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many friends, neighbours and well-wishers who provided emotional and practical support to us at this difficult time.

Mass will be offered for your intentions.

### Patricia (Pat) Mahon R.I.P.

The family of the late Patricia Mahon would like to thank everyone who supported us during our recent bereavement. All of your kind expressions of sympathy are deeply appreciated.

## **PARISH NOTES**

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN OUR CHURCH**

Eucharistic Adoration will take place every Monday from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration also takes place on the 1st Sunday of

each month, from 3.00 to 5.00 p.m.

New members welcome.

### THE SCRIPTURE BASED CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP

The scripture based contemplative prayer group now meet in the Dominican Convent, Griffith Avenue on Tuesday evenings at 8.00 p.m.

#### **CLONTURK HOUSE**

Eucharistic Adoration has resumed in the Oratory of the Rosminian Fathers, Clonturk House and will continue each Sunday night (except Bank Holiday Weekends) from 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

## **THANK YOU**

Just a modest note of gratitude to all of my neighbours for their kind letters and cards which were greatly appreciated, during my recent illness.

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass will be offered for all of you.

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# **PAT ON TAP**



Here we are, another year almost gone. A Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to everyone. The older you get, the quicker the years go by. I haven't even adjusted to 2019 and here we are with it almost gone.

This year, as anyone who has been reading my ramblings is aware, I went to Lourdes with the expectation of receiving a healing. I travelled with Our Lady of the Universe Lourdes group. They could not have been nicer when I arrived a wheelchair was ordered for me despite my many protests. I was delighted that they went ahead despite my protest. I did not avail of the wheelchair at times, but when I decided to walk, I was sorry that I hadn't the wheelchair, before the event was over. I could get used to being pushed around. The helpers, who had volunteered to push me, were very cheerful and the best of company. The only other time I was in Lourdes, I was

at the other end of the wheelchair. All this talk of wheelchairs brings me to my painting, which I wish to share with you this month entitled "Wheelchair Walk Lourdes" which is acrylic on board.

Apart from our first day there, when it rained all day, we had glorious sunshine every day. We were blessed with two spiritual directors, Fr's. Liam and John. If you are thinking of going to Lourdes in the coming year, I would have no hesitation of recommending that you go with Our Lady of the Universe Lourdes Group.

They are a lovely bunch of people with such joy and friendliness you couldn't travel with nicer. On the last day of our pilgrimage we had Holy Mass in St Maximilian Kolbe Chapel. Before Mass I happened to look down and to my annoyance, I spotted a stain on my shirt. I was not pleased about this as we were all packed and our baggage was stored awaiting departure, I wasn't going to be able to change so was stuck with the stained shirt for my journey home. When Mass was over, I looked down again and believe it or not the stain was gone. I took that as a sign that when I returned home and had my scan, I would be told that my cancer was gone.

On arrival home I had my scan and went in the following week for the result. I was not told that there was no sign of the cancer but was told that there was no increase in size or no sign of a spread. This was good news but not what I was convinced that I would be told. Anyhow a week later a friend that I hadn't seen for some time called out of the blue and asked me would I like to be prayed over by an Indian Priest who had the gift of healing. Naturally enough, I readily agreed, and met the priest whose name I can't recall. He prayed over me for about twenty minutes and told me I was healed in the Holy Name of Jesus. He had previously healed a 4 year old girl of cancer. My next scan is at the end of January so will keep you posted.

That's all for now and enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations and please God I will be in touch for a further chat in the New Year. Please pray for all in the parish who are sick.

God Bless Pat O'Rourke

# ONE OF OUR OWN



Little is known of Martin Gaffney and little needs to be known. Though big in stature, all 6' 5" of him, he is one of God's little ones. When he graces us with his presence, he takes on the role of being Jim Morrison's minder.

Some of us, who were Jim's helpers are 'pushed' aside, to allow for Martin's T.L.C. of Jim.

Martin's mother, Eileen, died a year ago. R.I.P. He has one sister and one brother. Like his mother, Martin can belt out a mean tune, his favourite being, Molly Malone and The Fields of Athenry.

Once a week, he enjoys a few pints, in a local watering hole!

The number nor the venue, will be disclosed!!

Martin was an altar server in Fr. John Dalton's time. Fr. John took him under his wing. Now he helps us prepare the altar for Eucharistic Adoration. When he can, he joins us for a cuppa and chat in the Marino room, after the 10am Mass, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as well as in a local nursing home after 11am on Sundays.

Martin, thank you for coming back into our lives. We are the better for having you. You keep us grounded, and help us to understand a little more, the words of Our Lord,

"Unless you become like a little child, you cannot enter into the kingdom of Heaven"

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

Tuesday 8th Oct. 7.30pm Parish talk for parents on the 'Do This in Memory' 1st Holy Communion Masses
Sundays of the Do This In Memory Programme for
First Holy Communion

Sunday, 15th December 2019 3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 26th January 2020 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, 16th February 2020 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 15th March 2020 3rd Sunday of Lent
Sunday, 05th April 2020 Palm Sunday
Sunday, 26th April 2020 3rd Sunday of Easter
Sunday, 14th June 2020 Feast of Corpus Christi

### First Reconciliation (First Confession)

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Parish talk for parents on

First Confession

Tuesday, 24th March 2020 First Reconciliation

(Scoil Mhuire)

Tuesday, 31st March 2020 First Reconciliation (St Vincent de Paul)

## **First Holy Communion**

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May Scoil Mhuire Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May St Vincent de Paul

#### **CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE 2019/2020**

Sunday, 8th December 2019 (2nd Sun of Advent)

Mass 12.30pm

Sunday, 19th January 2020 Mass 12.30pm

#### January retreat

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January - (Girls) Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> January - (Boys)

Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February -1.15pm Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1.15pm

Tuesday, 11th February

Tuesday 25th February

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 Confessions (Boys)
Confessions (Girls)
CEREMONY OF LIGHT

(BOYS)

**CEREMONY OF LIGHT** 

(GIRLS)

CONFIRMATION (BOYS)
CONFIRMATION (GIRLS)
Post Confirmation Mass

(Pentecost Sunday)





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# Tinkling the ivories at the Arus



Guess who played the grand piano in the magnificent drawing room of Áras an Uachtaráin when the Tuesday Club spent a lovely morning there on our annual outing? He would be far too modest to boast of this but Jim Morrison entertained everyone to a medley of airs including Danny Boy and some reels, when to great acclaim he took his place at the keys. It was a highlight of the day.

No stranger to entertaining in great

houses, Jim also sang several songs, including one "as gaeilge" when the Tuesday Club visited the Mansion House at Easter, a wonderful return visit for him who had also sung there as a young boy many years ago.





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## TOY SALE IN AID OF CHILD VISION



Jack (9 years) and Emily (6 years) Moylan and Tom Brady (9 years) all from Griffith Avenue would like to thank their family, friends and neighbours who supported their Toy Sale in aid of Child Vision. They raised €155.

That's a fine achievement guys, well done!



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### **HIDDEN TREASURES**



How often do we pass up and down Gracepark Road and our attention is drawn to the Childvision sign? Many of us are perhaps unaware that it is the only place in Ireland totally dedicated to the education and therapy needs of blind and multidisabled children.

Childvision came into being in 2012 carrying on the role of helping the visually impaired at a location which began over one hundred and fifty years ago.

The institution set up to deal with visually impaired children was run first by Carmelite Brothers and then by the Rosminian Order who are still involved on the board of Childvision.

We are aware of the school, and of course many of us have visited the garden centre, which we will probably do again before Christmas. Children have been brought to the petting zoo to experience animals such as rabbits and goats and of course the ponies. The centre is a small bit of countryside in the city.

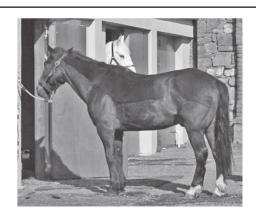
That brings us on to an exciting new therapy which was introduced in 2018. A recent Countrywide segment on RTE Radio 1 drew attention to this project and gave it wider exposure. The therapy is called Equine Assisted Occupational therapy and many studies have shown the benefits of horse riding for a variety of sensory and physical mobility issues in children.

The project is designed not only for children who are visually impaired, but it also assists in a wide range of other cognitive and mobility issues especially for children who are wheelchair bound. It is also shown that involvement with a horse for a length of time improves mood, sensory perception and has been shown to raise empathy levels in children with various spectrum issues. Also, for many children the

aftermath of riding such as the grooming, rub down and foddering give opportunities for developing cognitive and oral skills.

Unfortunately, now, the project depends on being self-funded, namely parents pay for the involvement of their child on a term basis.

Perhaps strolling past why not drop in, pick up a brochure and acquaint yourself with all the great work happening in our parish.



May this Christmas day be full of peace within our hearts.

May we be reminded of new birth, and of redeeming love.

May we dwell within each moment and savour all we have.

May we find hope and power to pray for things that make us sad.

May our hearts be ever thankful and our faith rise up high in praise.

May we know we are loved and treasured on this very special day.



Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

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# Simply Cooking with

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# **TURKEY CURRY**

# **Ingredients:**

1 Tablespoon Olive oil

1 Carrot, very thinly sliced

1 onion, chopped

1 clove of garlic, crushed

1 Small Cooking Apple, peeled and chopped

1 Tablespoon ground curry powder

1 Dessert spoon Tomato Puree

1 Level Teaspoon Ground Ginger

1 Table spoon Plain Flour

2 ozs./50gms. Raisins or Sultanas(optional)

1 Knorr Stock cube

Salt and Pepper

1pt./600 ml. water

11b. / 450gms.Cooked Turkey (cut in pieces)

### Method:

Fry onion and garlic in oil until soft.

Add in the curry powder and cook for 1 or 2 mins.

Next add ginger and flour and cook for 1 or 2 mins., stirring well.

Pour in the water (boiling) and stock cube and whisk briskly to mix.

Add in all the remaining ingredients, except the turkey.

Bring this sauce to the boil while stirring and then simmer gently for 10

Add in the turkey, bring to the boil again and simmer for 10 - 15 mins., until vegetables are tender.

Serve with long grain easy-cook rice. Garnish with flaked almonds(optional)

P.S. This a great way to use up leftover turkey and makes a nice warming meal for the Christmas weather.

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## THE BRENTS ARE BACK!



As we go to print, the Brents are back but further away. We had got so used to seeing them at the corner in the grounds of Ard Scoil Ris, but the necessary development of the pitches changed the nature of their feeding ground. Of course,

large numbers of geese using your pitch is not a great idea when children are set to play matches there. Like all other species their arrival is now predicated on how global warming affects their habitat. However, they are resilient and will find that green sward which they seek in many other areas around.

Migrating south as they do from their breeding grounds around Baffin Bay in Canada, to escape the harsh Arctic winter, the Dublin Bay has always been an important stopping off place for them with its many green areas, not only those of the North Bull but every pitch and park around the Clontarf, Raheny and Malahide area. Of course, we are only one of the many areas they return to each year.

The ground pattern of the bay area is like many northerly fiords and they see it as reminding them of their northerly way points.

Their advent is a mark of our year, something many of us love. They are an important part of our seasonal story, bringing the first news of impending winter and on their departure as harbingers of summers to come, and as the poet says, sometimes hauntingly, they remind us of our earth bound selves and we wish with the poet, who says,

"Now I watch my window, as geese feather the moon, and long for one more flight"

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# THE ALICE AND LIAM CREATIONS COFFEE MORNING

On the ninth of November last a very successful coffee morning was hosted by two young teenagers, Alice and Liam, hence the title. The coffee morning was an idea which took root in these two young heads and its success was down to their effort and enthusiasm.

Along the way of course they enlisted the help of many neighbours and friends especially good neighbour Jo and of course Deirdre. This idea was theirs and its success in raising €1,800 for the **Beaumont Breast Cancer Foundation** is a credit to them and their commitment.

In this modern age it is a sign of great hope for the future when one meets such self-motivated young people.

Of course, one cannot forget the generosity of all those who turned out from Grace Park Heights and beyond on what was quite a wintry morning.

Alice and Liam are probably known to some of you through their membership of the Knitwits Group in the parish, where their youthful enthusiasm is known to all.

A big well done to both and of course to Jo for all her assistance.



# CORRIGAN'S LATE NIGHT PHARMACY

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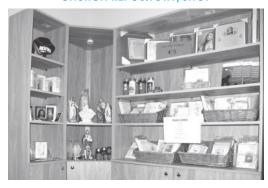
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As Christmas is approaching please check out our selection of Christmas Cards, Cribs, Christmas Candles, Tree decorations, Nativity Scenes and lots more.

We also have Advent Calendars and Church Art Calendars for 2020 Cards for the Christmas Novena of masses are also available.

We have a good supply of sacramental mementos for all occasions too. We look forward to seeing you.

Signed Mass Cards are also available from the Parish shop as well as the Sacristy.

## POPE FRANCIS ON GREED



At a recent Sunday Mass in St. Peters, on World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis made the point that "greed of a few" wealthy people are compounding the plight of the poor. Like his namesake, the Pope has made a point of paying attention to those on the margins of society. After Mass, he sat down to lunch with a group of poor people, and elsewhere in Rome over 1500 poor were seated to lunch.

Sometimes his concern for the poor upsets people in the Church who are comfortable and who may feel that poverty is a problem we will always have with us. It is also of concern, that some in the Church are so concerned about not causing offence to very wealthy patrons and corporations, that they forget the beatitudes.

Pope Francis reminded the faithful that the poor should be seen as a treasure. He said "Instead of feeling annoyed when they knock on our doors, let us welcome their cry for help as a summons to go out of ourselves, ".

Perhaps his message is timely as we are on the run in to Christmas. Maybe we too may heed the call to go out of ourselves towards the poor.





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The word "Christmas" is a compound of two words, "Christ" and "mass". The first word means "anointed one", and the second word refers to the sacrament of the Eucharist. Hence the Christian festival of Christmas is a celebration of the anointed one, Jesus "The word of God" becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us.



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> Ms. Anne Casey, Mr. Declan Nolan, Mrs. Teresa Avres.

Mr. John Ward, Mr. James Caulfield

### **NEW SACRISTY OPENING HOURS:**

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Sunday

#### **Parish Secretaries:**

Mrs. Noreen Brunton and Mrs. Mary Casserly

Sacramental Preparation: Mrs. Anne Dooley

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m.-12.30p.m. Web site: www.marinoparish.ie. e-mail: info@marinoparish.ie The Newsletter is published in good faith, by the Communications group of the Parish who cannot accept

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Happy Christmas to all our customers

## **CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2019**

## SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Monday 16th December at 7.30 pm.

(Individual Confessions with communal preparation and thanksgiving, Parish Clergy and visiting Priests)

## **CAROL SERVICE**

Wednesday 18th December at 7.30 p.m.

## **CONFESSIONS**

### Tuesday 24th December

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon & 4.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

## **MASSES**

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 10.00 a.m., 6.00 p.m. (Children's Mass)

9.00 p.m. (Christmas Eve Vigil Mass) (Carols from 8.45 p.m.)

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30 a.m. 11.00 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.

The Church will close after the last Mass on Christmas Day.

From Thursday 26th December (St. Stephen's Day) to Monday 3rd January 2020 weekday Mass at 10.00 a.m. only

Weekend Masses as per normal

Saturday 4th January, Mass at 10.00a.m. & Vigil Mass 5.30 p.m.

Sunday 5th January 9.30a.m., 11.00a.m., 12.30p.m.

and 5.30p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Monday 6th January (Feast of the Epiphany) Mass at 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.

Normal timetable resumes Tuesday 7th January

# Clontarf & Marino Heating & Plumbing

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On Call Over the Christmas Period

INSTALLATION AND SERVICING BOILER MAINTENANCE

REGISTERED GAS INSTALLER



Special Discount price of €75

for Gas Boiler Servicing for OAP's in Marino

Heating check with all gas servicing

Wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Customers

Again we have a large number of entries with a very improved standard. Please do keep entering as it a great encouragement to our judges and our editorial team, when we see so much young talent and interest.

## **CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION**

Just colour in the drawing, write your name and address in the space provided and drop your entry into the Parish Office at Marino Church before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Gift tokens for the winning entries.

The upper age limit is 12 years.

Results published in the next newsletter, and the judges' decision is final.

In line with Child Protection Policy please do not give mobile phone numbers.

In line with GDPR we also leave out addresses in the publication to maintain anonymity.

# HALLOWE'EN ART COMPETITION WINNERS

First prize: Cian Weldon

Joint Second prize: Isabella Wusu and Sadbh Breen

Third prize: Ayman Salameh

Name:	Age:
Address:	

