

MARINO PARISH NEWSLETTER

Christmas Issue



'tis the Season...

Advent that great season in the Church's year is upon us; a time when we focus on the core of our belief that the Redeemer would be born to us in a humble stable.

Our faith lives are built around this simple and humble beginning and each year the Advent candle lights on our altar, to signify the coming of that light, the light of the world, a light which takes away darkness and gives us hope. How important has that little light become in

this time of restrictions and of risk, where so much human contact is denied to us out of fear of the virus which stalks our world.

Pope Emeritus Benedict speaking during the swine flu epidemic reminded all of us that "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

This is always a time of longing; Advent is always a sort of countdown to the outpouring of joy, in families, in the faith life. Children long for Santa, to meet their family, their grandparents, parents long for the wild geese to return home. And yet, all these desires are new. They are ultimately the product of so much of our modern way of life, feelings now which assail us because we have become so used to travel, to social gatherings, to partying.

We have forgotten that life was not always thus. Christmas was simple, the great joy of Midnight Mass, the warmth of the friendships at Church, the catching up of news from abroad. For some it was a more fraught, especially for those who had little, no different than today for those on the margins.

Perhaps during this time, it is useful to reflect on the reality of Joseph and Mary on that journey to Jerusalem. Did they go out of obligation to the Roman rulers, and did they accept the risks that could befall a young pregnant woman. Today we feel sure that God held them in the palm of His hand, but did they feel that all the time. They were like us and those qualms and worries that affect us now were no different for them.

Each Sunday, as we light our different coloured Advent candle, maybe we can share with them our own thoughts and fears and as we journey together, let us remember the words of Julian of Norwich, when she came to understand through suffering, that Christ would ensure that 'all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

A Forgotten Story of Christmas



About that time, Augustus the Roman ruler made a law. All the people in the world must have their names written down in a book.

This was the first time names were written in a book in this way. Quirinius was the ruler of Syria at that time.

Everyone went to his home town to have his name written in the book.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This was David's town, and Joseph came from David's family line.

He went to have his name written in the book. Joseph took Mary with him. She was promised to Joseph to be his wife. She was going to have a baby.

While they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.

This was her first child, a son. She wrapped him in a cloth and laid him in a box where cows feed. There was no room for them in the house for strangers.

In the same part of the country, men were taking care of sheep. They were in the field watching their sheep at night.

An angel of the Lord came to them and a bright light from the Lord shone all around them. They were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, 'Fear not! Listen, I bring you good news! This news will make you very glad. It is for all people.

A saviour has been born for you today in David's town. He is Christ the Lord.

This is the way you will know him. You will find a baby wrapped in a cloth, lying in a box where cows feed.'

All at once a great number of angels from heaven were with the angel. They were praising God.

They said, 'Praise God in the highest heaven! Peace on earth and loving mercy towards all people!'

The angels left them and went back to heaven. The men who were taking care of the sheep said to one another 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see what has happened. It is the Lord who has told us about it.'

They went quickly. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the box where cows feed.

When they saw the child, they told what the angel had said to them about him.

All those who heard them were surprised at what the shepherds had told them.

Mary remembered all these things and kept thinking about them.

Then the men who were taking care of the sheep went back. They praised and thanked God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as they had been told it would be.

When the child was eight days old, it was time to circumcise him. They named him Jesus. That was the name the angel gave him before the baby began to grow inside Mary.

The time came when Mary was no longer unclean by the law of Moses. Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to bring him to the Lord.

This is what is written in the law of the Lord: 'Every boy who is the first child of his mother will be holy for the Lord.'

They also came to make a sacrifice as an offering to God. The law of the Lord said, 'A pair of doves or two young pigeons.'

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was a good man and he loved God. He was watching and waiting for the one who would save Israel. The Holy Spirit was on him.

The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

He came into the temple, led by the Spirit. The parents brought in the child Jesus to do what the law said they should do about him.

Then Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God.

He said, 'Lord, now you are letting your servant go in peace, just as you said.

I have seen with my own eyes the one you have sent to save people.

You have made this way for all peoples to be saved.

He is a light which will shine for those who do not know God. He is the one who will bring praise to your people Israel.'

Joseph and Mary were surprised at the things Simeon said about Jesus.

Simeon blessed them. He said to Mary, the mother of Jesus, 'He will be a sign that people do not believe in. He will make many people in Israel fall and rise.

The Flower of the Holy Night

One of the plants that has come to signify Christmas in the last thirty years or so has been the rich vibrant red and verdant green of the poinsettia. The poinsettia, originally a native of Mexico and not used to the winter cold of Northern Europe, has been successfully cultivated here for over thirty years, with currently around two hundred growers in Ireland.

In Mexico, the poinsettia and its appearance are part of a beautiful Christmas legend. It is known as the flor de la Nochebuena or flower of the Holy Night. At Christmastime, the flower blooms and flourishes, the quite exquisite red stars lighting up the countryside.

The legend tells the story of a little girl who had no gift for the infant Jesus on Christmas eve. A friend said to her to pick some flowers from the roadside since flowers were always a gift.

Picking a small bunch of weeds, she made a little bouquet and laid it at the crib. Suddenly the weeds burst forth into a glorious burst of red and white flowers and from then on the flower is known in Mexico as the Flower of the Holy Night.



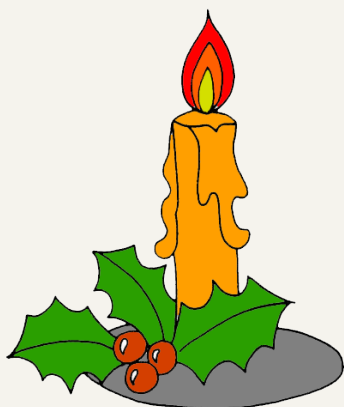
Each Christmas at least half a million poinsettia plants are grown locally for the local market. Their vibrant colours are a marvellous backdrop for the Christmas decorations and are like beacons of hope in the dark days of winter. They seem to bring with them the warmth of their Mexican homeland whether as table centrepieces or in living rooms or hallways.

To ensure their longevity they really don't like draughts and like to be somewhere the temperature is constant between 17 to 22° C. Also, they need sufficient water to keep the compost moist, neither too damp or too dry.

They also like sunlight during the day, and they are not happy with being moved around between varying light and temperature.

The plant will survive after Christmas and can last until the following year with care, when its traditional red leaves will return.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2020



Full details of the Christmas Masses, Confessions, Carol Services etc. in the Parish, are available on the home page of the website, and at the Church entrance.

Christmas Dues envelopes will be delivered to each parishioner and also available at the back of the Church or from the sacristy.

Donations can be made by leaving the envelopes in the safes at the back of the Church or by using the donate button on the Parish website.

The Parish team are most grateful for all the financial support received so far, especially given the many additional expenses needed to maintain the Church as a safe place for all our parishioners.

May we take this opportunity to wish you Peace and Joy for Christmas and every blessing in the New Year and a safe and secure year ahead in these times of pandemic.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THEN, SADLY, FAREWELL



It is hard to believe that our beloved Father Ali Joe has been with us in the Parish for seven years. Coming as he did after Fr. John Aikoye, who had also been such a popular and hardworking priest, he fitted seamlessly into the Parish.

During his ministry here, he has brought us song, he has brought us joy in our relationship with the Father and he has been an invaluable servant of all here. He has shared our celebrations and our joy and he has comforted us in our sorrows bringing his own life experiences to us. His work with the schools has been such an influence for good and for faith

formation that it will live on.

During his time here his other mission was to educate himself so that he could return prepared for the many challenges facing the Church not just here but in his homeland.

Four years ago, he was awarded his M.A. from Maynooth Pontifical University and in October his Doctrinal Thesis was accepted and he graduated in November with his PhD. in Moral Theology.

On Sunday the 15th November, the 11.00a.m. Mass was his farewell mass streamed on the web due to Level 5 regulations, before his return to his homeland on 20th November.

Due to the pandemic it was not possible to gather as a community to say farewell and to thank Fr. Ali Joe.



However at the end of the Mass, which Father Ali Joe concelebrated with the other parish clergy, Fathers Tom, Liam, Paul and Monsignor Alex, our Parish priest Father Noone expressed his gratitude to Fr. Ali Joe for all he had given us as a faith community and how diligently he had studied yet was always able to provide pastoral care in the parish when called upon. Mary Dillon, on behalf of the Parish Council and parishioners expressed all our gratitude and made a presentation to Fr. Ali Joe.

Speaking about his time here Father Ali Joe paid tribute to Sister Julie who helped all the Nigerian students navigate their time in Ireland. Sister Julie then spoke about her role and mission between the African Church and liaising with their students here, and she also spoke of the long relationship between Ireland and Nigeria.

We thank Ali Joe for all that he has brought to us and we wish him safe travelling and good health in his future mission.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2020

Christmas Eve:	10.00a.m., 5.30p.m. and 8.00p.m.
Christmas Day:	9.15a.m. and 11.00a.m.
St. Stephen's Day:	10.00a.m. and 5.30p.m.
Sunday 27 th . December:	9.15a.m. and 11.00a.m.

A short Penitential Service will be included in all these Masses.
Individual Confessions available on request.

All services will be live streamed at : <https://www.marinoparish.ie/live-stream/>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Mrs. Ann Boland R.I.P.

The husband, family and extended family of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Ann Boland, of Grace Park Heights, would like to express our sincere thanks to all who sympathised with us and sent Mass cards, messages of support and flowers, e-mails and texts in our recent sad loss.

To Ann's friends, family members, who could not be with us, work colleagues and wonderful neighbours who lined the pavements of Grace Park Heights in a final farewell, Go raibh maith agaibh.

To Professor Tom Gorey, Professor John McCaffrey, his team and the doctors, nurses and staff of St. Elizabeth's Ward and of the oncology Dept. at the Mater private Hospital, the friends in the Arc, to Mr. Emir Hoti and his team in St. Vincent's Hospital and to Sinéad and the entire team in St. Francis Hospice for your wonderful attention and kindness to Ann during her final illness, Míle Buíochas.

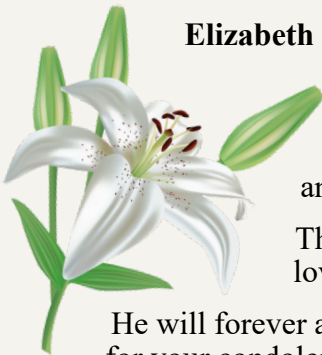
Thanks to Father Ali Joe, to the soloist, parish Secretary, sacristy and Funeral Ministry team of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Griffith Avenue for the beautiful funeral Mass.

We would like to acknowledge the professional care and attention of Lanigan's Funeral Directors, Beaumont Road.

Finally, a special word of thanks to friends, colleagues, mentors and players in St. Vincent's G.A.A. club who formed the guard of honour outside the Church, a truly special gesture of support and solidarity.

Please accept this acknowledgment as an expression of our gratitude.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.



Elizabeth Farrelly R.I.P.

Adrian Farrelly of Carelton Road, whose wife Elizabeth died peacefully at home on the 14th November last, surrounded by her family would like to thank all his neighbours and friends for the care and compassion shown to him during Elizabeth's illness.

Thanks also to the staff of St. Francis Hospice, Raheny for taking such loving care of Elizabeth.

He will forever appreciate your kindness in such dark times, and thank you to everybody for your condolences, prayers and thoughts.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH TEAM

Dear Parishioner,

2020 has been a very strange year and Covid-19 has changed almost every aspect of our lives. How we celebrate Christmas as a Christian community will also dramatically change this year.

Archbishop Martin has reflected on how "Can we find ways of spreading Mass attendance over a longer period than just Christmas night and Christmas day?"

To this end and in order to allow people to attend Mass safely over Christmas we are issuing tickets for parishioners for Masses from Christmas Eve to the Sunday after Christmas.

Tickets will be issued from 14th December on a first come first served basis and may be applied for by calling the Parish office on (01)833 2772

Christmas Colouring Competition

Welcome to all our young readers who have loyally entered for the Art competition in our normal Newsletter. To enter this competition, you must print off this page and colour in as usual.

You can either print it directly to your printer or download the page and then print it. The pages are in PDF format and if you can't manage it ask someone in the family to do it for you.

Just colour in the drawing, write your name and address on the back of the page and drop your entries into the parish office at Marino Church, before the 22nd. January 2021.

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, especially as our newsletter is on the web for the time being.

Gift tokens for the winning entries. The upper age limit is 12 years.

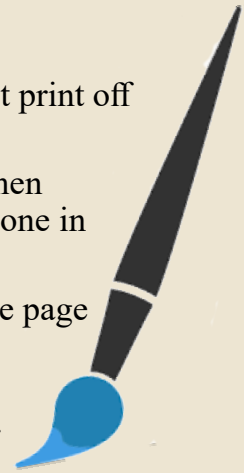
Results published in the next newsletter, and the judges' decision is final.

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

We also leave out house numbers in the publication to maintain. anonymity

Autumn Competition Winners

1st prize: Sadbh Breen. 2nd.prize: Saoirse Breen



A sincere word of thanks to all parishioners for your support in 2020 and especially to all our volunteers who made it possible to function in the past year.

Wishing you a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and looking forward to a healthier and more normal 2021

Father Tom, Father Paul and the Parish team

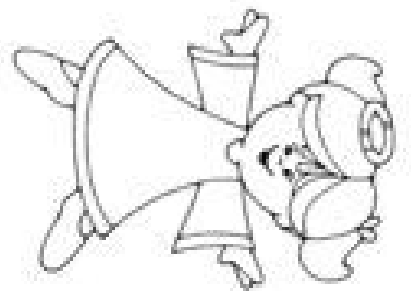
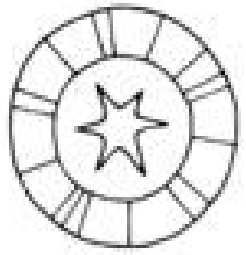
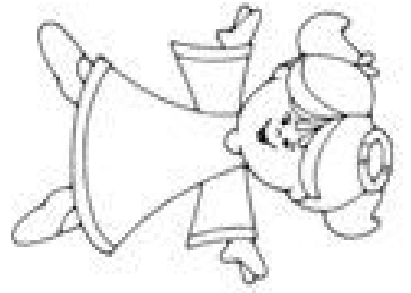
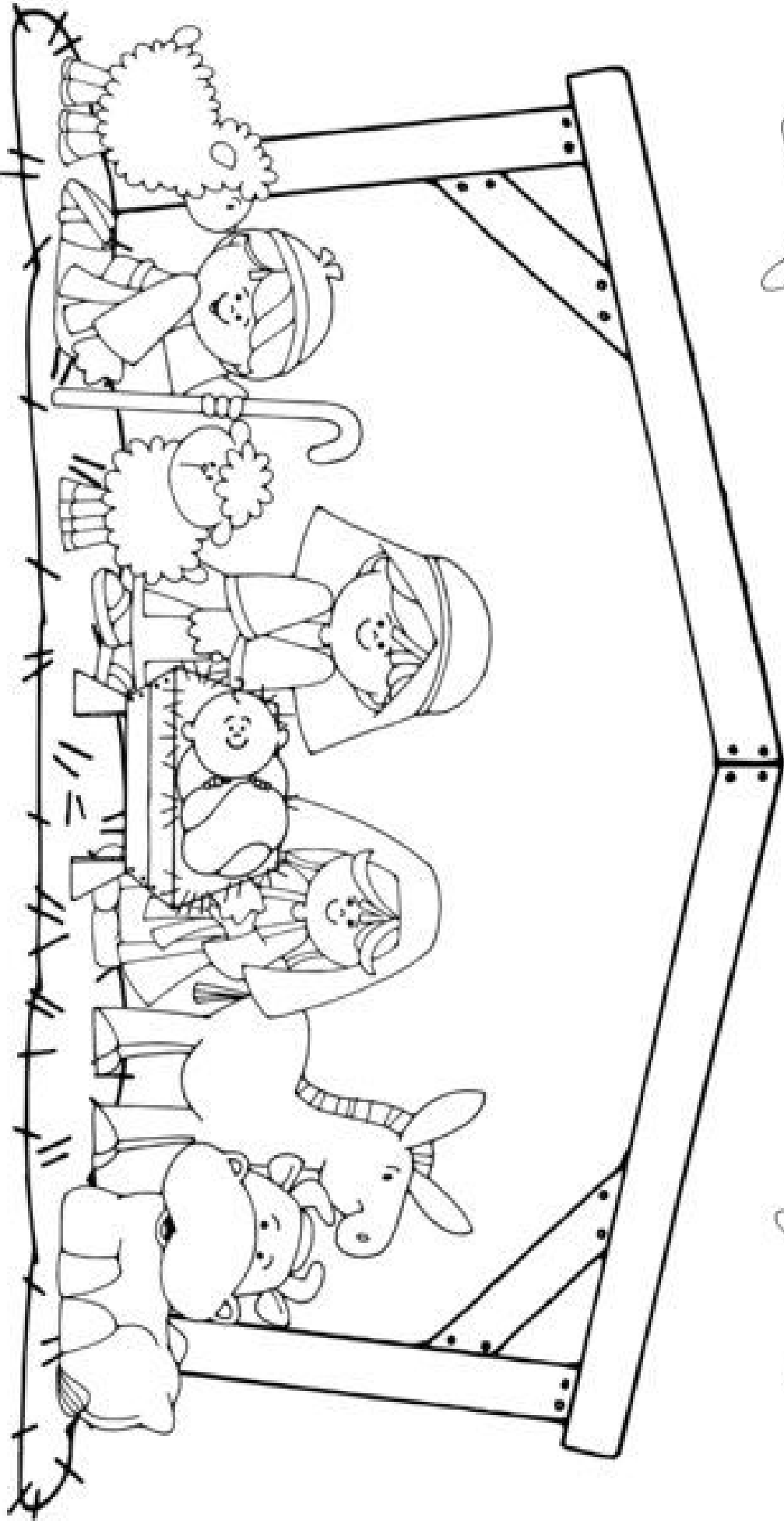
Editor's Note

On behalf of the editorial and design team we want to wish all our parishioners and readers a Very Happy Christmas. We look forward to the time when we can get back to our printed version so that each house can receive Parish News. Also thank you to all who contribute articles and pieces to our current version of the Newsletter.

At this very unusual time we would like to thank all of our sponsors who helped us in the past eighteen years and to ask you to continue to support their businesses over Christmas and for the future.

Our local Supermarkets, Bakers, Butchers, Pharmacies, Hardware, and all our services such as our Hairdressers, Dry Cleaners, and local Gyms, our local coffee shops and Chippers have all played their part in helping us get through the various lockdowns. Nor can we forget our Doctors, Dentists, care Staff, and of course our Funeral Directors whose unfailing kindness and compassion has helped so many of our bereaved parishioners. We wish all of them a safe and successful Christmas.

The Newsletter is published in good faith by the Communications Group of Marino Parish. The Parish cannot accept liability for any errors or omissions contained therein



Pat on TaP



Christmas 2020. Hi everyone where did the year go? It was the strangest year I ever experienced as I'm sure it was for everyone. Thank God the shops and churches have returned to near normality. It's great that we have Holy Mass back and increased numbers are allowed to attend. It was good to be able to attend Mass through the parish website but it's not the same as being there in person and being able to receive the Blessed Eucharist.

Cannot help wondering what the New Year will bring, will the availability of a vaccine make a difference to the restrictions? I expect it all depends on the number of people that will feel brave enough to have the vaccine which was rolled out in such a short period of time.

Are you all set for the Christmas shopping and a visit to your favourite restaurant and eventually being able to travel outside the county? The painting I am sharing in this issue is titled "The Junction" Acrylic on canvas. It is a restaurant in Ballina, Co Mayo, which I unfortunately, will not be able to return to soon.

Before you hit the shops and restaurants for your Christmas adventure you will no doubt pay a visit to your bank to have some ready cash even though a lot of transactions nowadays are by card. If you are anything like me you prefer to deal in cash.

This brings me to an experience I had some years ago when the banks had more tellers and I wasn't used to using ATMs. It was the Christmas rush and there was a very large queue for the bank tellers and a smaller queue for the ATM so I decided to have a go at the ATM. When I eventually reached the machine, I keyed in my details and entered the amount that I intended to withdraw a message appeared on the screen "insufficient funds"

I was very annoyed at having queued up for so long only to find that the machine had insufficient funds to cover my modest request for my Christmas spend. Being the good citizen that I am I turned around to the impatient queue behind me and informed them that there was no point in them staying here as the machine was out of cash. It was only after queuing up for the teller and making my withdrawal request that I discovered that it was I who had insufficient funds. I have always been a bit wary of ATM ever since.

Anyhow hope you never see that message appearing on the ATM when you go to use it. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and normal New Year. And as Joe Duffy says "wash your hands"

Mary's Christmas Cooking



TURKEY MEXICAN

(An alternative way with Turkey or Chicken over the Festive Season)

Ingredients:

4 Medium sized Turkey Chicken Joints	3 Tablespoons Oil
2 Medium sized onions, peeled and sliced	2 Cloves Garlic, crushed
½ Green Pepper, de-seeded and sliced	½ Red Pepper, deseeded and sliced
1 Chilli Pepper, deseeded and finely chopped	2 Tablespoons Tomato Puree
7 oz. (200g) Can Tomatoes	½ Pint Chicken Stock
4 oz (125g) Sweetcorn	4 oz (125g) Button Mushrooms, sliced

Season with Salt and Black Pepper and Garnish with Chopped Parsley

Method:

Heat oil in frying pan over moderate heat and brown Turkey or Chicken joints.

Remove the joints from the pan and place in a casserole. Sauté the onions, garlic and peppers until tender, then add the tomatoes, tomato puree and stock.

Pour this over the turkey/chicken joints and place in a very moderate oven, 160°C (325°F), Gas No. 3, for 1½ hrs.

Drain sauce from turkey/chicken and place in a saucepan. Boil rapidly until sauce is reduced by half.

Add sweet corn and mushrooms and cook for 2 mins. Pour sauce over turkey/chicken portions and sprinkle with chopped parsley. This dish can be served in the casserole or on a bed of boiled rice with turkey/ chicken portions and sauce over the top.

Serves 4.

WHISKEY BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING:

Ingredients:

75g/3 oz Butter (soft)	300 ml/half pint Cream
1 Small Sliced Pan	300 ml/half pint Milk
110g/4 oz Sultanas	5 Eggs
Measure of Irish Whiskey	110g/4 Oz Caster Sugar

Method:

Soak sultanas in whiskey overnight.

Butter a medium oven-proof dish.

Remove crusts from bread and butter both sides. Then cut each slice into quarters. Arrange single layer of bread triangles in bottom of buttered dish.

Scatter some of soaked sultanas over the top and place another layer of bread triangles over these. Sprinkle remaining sultanas on top. Press down gently with Spatula.

To make Custard:

Heat milk and cream in pan until it almost comes to boil. Remove from heat. Whisk eggs and sugar in large bowl until pale in colour. Pour boiled liquid onto egg mixture and mix well until frothy. Allow custard to stand for a few minutes.

Pour two thirds of custard over layered bread triangles and leave to stand for 30 mins until bread has soaked up the custard.

Pre-heat oven to 180°C/350°F Gas Mark 4. Pour remaining custard over soaked bread and butter triangles. Press down firmly with the spatula.

Bake for 30/35 mins until top is golden brown. Serve with Cream or Ice Cream.

Ideal for a hungry family! Enjoy