



Clondalkin Village Parish

Immaculate Conception & St. Killian Church

Clonburris & Knockmitten

Sundays 23rd & 30th December 2018

Christmas Newsletter



Welcome at Christmas

There is an aspect to the preparation for Christmas that appeals to people whether they are religious or not. The tasks that are undertaken in the weeks leading up to the day itself as familiar maybe from childhood and if nothing else, can take our minds off the cold and short days. Christmas is a time of welcoming. People welcome home family and friends who live overseas, neighbours welcome neighbours for a seasonal drink. We remember our families and friends who are overseas, especially those for whom this is their first Christmas away from home and those parishioners who are serving with the Irish Defence Forces on peace keeping missions with the United Nations. We welcome those spending their first Christmas with us here in Clondalkin and our parishioners from other lands who are now an integral part of our worshipping community.

Parishioners may have heard and read about the proposed closure of the Direct Provision Centre in Clondalkin. This has now been postponed and it was to the credit of our parishioners who joined with others speaking up for the residents, some of whom are worshipping members of our Parish whilst many are of other faith groups.

The first Christmas was a little different. There was no welcome for the couple from Nazareth who were expecting their child. Their only refuge was a place where the animals were kept, not the most healthy or hygienic place to give birth. God's chosen people and those waiting for a Messiah were not the first to welcome him. Instead it was the outsiders, the shepherds and those who travelled from afar, who greeted the baby with joy. There is an argument to say that the Holy Family were the most famous refugee family in history.

How will the Christ child be welcomed this Christmas? Will there be space amongst the celebrations and gift-giving to receive the gift of a child who has the power to transform and heal, to comfort and disturb? Where will we encounter the Christ who lives among us – in those who are less fortunate than ourselves? There are many families who will have an empty place at the table this Christmas Day and we keep them in our prayers at this time.

Finally, I wish you and yours a very happy, holy and above all a peaceful Christmas.

Fr. Damian Farnon

Moderator Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin.

Some Useful Numbers

Aware - tel. 1890 303 302 **Console** - tel. 1800 247247

Childline - tel. 1800 66 66 66 **Samaritans** - tel. 116 123

Women's Aid - tel. 1800 341 900

Womens Refuge - tel. 01 496 1002

St Vincent de Paul - tel. 01-8550022



Contacts

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Knockmitten

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Clonburris

Fr. Shán O Cuív CC 01 459 3520

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Make sure to download the new Parish Phone App – **YourParish App** - available **FREE** from Playstore or GooglePlay.



Once installed, open the App and select:

Diocese – Dublin

Parish – Clondalkin

Church – Clondalkin Village Parish

Then tap - Ready

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Masses and Liturgical Celebrations in the Clondalkin Area over the Christmas Period

KNOCKMITTEN

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

First Mass of Christmas (for children) at 5pm

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6.30pm

Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Mass (with Band and Choir) at 10am

CLONBURRIS

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

First Mass of Christmas at 9pm

Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Mass at 11am

CLONDALKIN VILLAGE

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Mass as usual at 07.30 and 10.00

Confessions: 10.30-12.00 and 2pm to 3pm

4.30pm Nativity play for children

First Mass of Christmas (with Clondalkin Youth Band) at 7.30pm

Carols at 9.45pm followed by Night Mass of Christmas at 10pm

Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Aifreann na Nollag at 9am

Sung Mass at 10.30am

Gospel Mass at 12 noon

Wednesday 26th December to Friday 4th January

The weekday daily Mass will be at 10am only.

(The 7.30am Mass resumes on Monday 7th January)

Monday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

The annual Last Lights ceremony of quiet, candlelit prayer is in the Village Church from 4pm to 5pm

SRULEEN

Sunday December 23 Mass at 11 AM Confessions: from 10AM

Monday December 24 Monday 24 from 10.00 AM. Children's Mass at 5pm, Carols and Reflection at 8pm, Mass at 8.30pm

Tuesday December 25 Mass at 11am

Sunday December 30 Mass at 11am

Tuesday January 1 Mass at 11am

Sunday January 6 Mass at 11am

DEANRATH

Christmas Eve Mass at 8.00 p.m. and Christmas Day Mass at 11.00.

Weekends normal Services 6 p.m. Sat evening and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Deansrath crib is well worth a visit – dealing with homelessness housing crisis – very creative. The Church is usually open in the morning time.

BAWNOGUE

Saturday 22nd December. Vigil Mass

Sunday 23rd December. Mass at 10.30 a.m. and 12.00

Monday 24th December. Vigil Mass at 6.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

Tuesday 25th. December. Christmas Day mass at 10.30 a.m. and 12.00

Tuesday 1st January. Mass at 10.00

NEILSTOWN & ROWLAGH/QUARRYVALE

Christmas Eve Masses: Monday 24th December

Rowlagh-Quarryvale 12noon Malayalam Indian Community

Rowlagh-Quarryvale 5pm Children's Mass

Neilstown 7pm Family Mass

Rowlagh-Quarryvale 9pm Solemn Vigil Mass

Christmas Day Masses: Tuesday 25th December

Rowlagh-Quarryvale 10am

Neilstown 11.30am

Wednesday – Friday 26th- 28th December – Masses @ 11am

Feast of Holy Family 29th & 30 December

Rowlagh-Quarryvale - Saturday 29th @ 6pm & Sunday 30th @ 10am

Neilstown - Saturday 29th @ 7pm & Sunday 30th @ 11.30am

Epiphany 5 & 6 January 2019

Rowlagh-Quarryvale - Saturday 5th @ 6pm & Sunday 6th @ 10am

Neilstown - Saturday 5th @ 7pm & Sunday 6th @ 11.30am



Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve

By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed,

"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.

I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the world and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track,
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.

I can do all these things Lord, only through You,
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.

All this is to honor the birth of the One,
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.

So to all of my friends, least Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."

Confession is available before and after all masses



We hope to see you there!

Clondalkin Village Church



Sunday 23rd December

6.30pm (vigil) Anne Peter and Christy Nixon, Jack and Katie Fitzgerald and deceased family members, Patrick and Mary Cosgrove and deceased family members, Maureen Cooney (1st An), George McDonnell, Maureen and Frank King (An)
10.30am James Norton Snr, Seamus Egan (An), Mary Kirwan and Geraldine Lernihan (An)
12 noon Pauline Murphy (2nd An), Bridget Brannigan (An)
5.30pm Ann Adair (MM), Madeline Hodgins, (15th An)
Seamus Egan, ann

24th December

10.00am Patrick, Sarah, Brendan and Frank Byrne (An)

Christmas Day

All Masses today are offered for the intentions of all Parishioners and for the recipients of the Parish Christmas Cards

December 27th

10.00am Nora Sheridan (An), Brendan and Esther Callaghan

December 29th

10.00am Michael McDermott

Saturday 29th December

10.00am Christopher, Lillian and Brendan Behan (An)

Sunday 30th December

6.30pm (Vigil) Francis Mulholland, Marie Hegarty (2nd An) and deceased members of Plunkett and Hegarty Families
10.30am John and Annie Conroy (An), Doreen Rackley (An)
12 noon Johnny Delaney (An), Tony O'Neill (An), Derval Connell (3rd An)

Monday 31st December

10.00am Percy Reeves

Tuesday 1st January 2019

10.00am Catherine and Louise Delgado and parents

Thursday 2nd January

10.00am Florence Moloney (An)

Friday 4th January

First Friday, Mass for all whose names are on the Altar List of the Dead

Saturday 5th January

10.00am Martin Gerard Stokes (50th BD rem)

Sunday 6th January

6.30pm (vigil) Kathleen McDonald (An)
10.30am Ciaran O'Connell (An), James Crahan (An), Tom O'Neill (An), Bridget Leydon (An), James, Kathleen and Greta Gallagher (Rem)
12 noon Frankie Brown (BD rem)



A Prayer for those travelling home this Christmas Loving God protect and watch over all our loved ones who are travelling home to be with us this Christmas. May they arrive safely to share this season of joy with us. We ask this in your care. Amen

Candle at the Window. This is one of the most well-observed of Irish Christmas traditions and has changed little over the years except in its increasing popularity. Just one candle used to be placed in a window as a sign of welcome for Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve but it is common these days to see lit candles, usually electrically or battery powered, in all downstairs street-facing windows throughout the festive season. In some homes they are also placed in upstairs windows.

But always remember to be fire-aware & safe!!



Clondalkin Village at a glance Christmas Eve

This Week

Mass at 10am only. Confessions available at 10.30am to 12 noon and 2pm to 3pm

Nativity Performance at 4.30pm performed by the Children preparing for First Holy Communion under the guidance and direction of Christina, PPW

Thursday 27th December

Adoration after 10am until 11.45am

Holy Hour 8 to 9pm

December 31st - Last lights Ceremony

4.30pm

As 2018 breathes its last we gather in reflection and gratitude to bid goodbye and welcome in 2019 with anticipation and complete trust in God and pray for the Grace to accept whatever comes.

Saturday 5th January

First Saturday, Fatima Devotions after 10am Mass



CHURCH DUTY

Altar Linen: Mary Jenkins, 18th Dec

Vera Rodgers, 27th Dec

Cleaning: Teams resume early in the New Year. All hand on deck during the Christmas Season

Flowers: Maintenance of flowers and decorations. Teams resume after Christmas



Before Christmas Day Read **Sunday's Gospel**, two or three times (**Lk1:38-44**). It's one we know very well. Read it a few times – come back to it again over the next few days. **Is there something about the story that maybe you never noticed before? Is there a word, phrase, idea that strikes you? In the stillness repeat that word or phrase in your mind. Stay with this for a few moments and let its meaning sink into your heart.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.



As 2018 is coming to an end Think of all the things you are thankful for

Blessed are you – YOU ARE BLESSED! Do you let yourself believe this, really feel this?

In what ways has the Lord visited you, your family, and your community this year?

How are you asked to be the 'Christ-bearer' to others?

What is this gospel challenging you to do, to be?

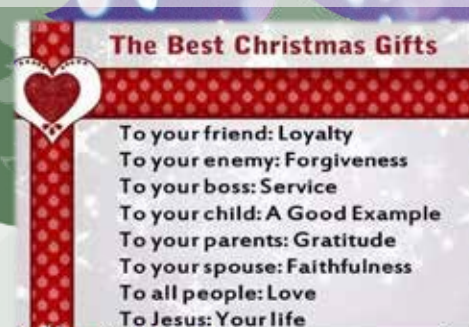


Something to Consider

Twentieth Century industrialist W. J. Cameron once said "there has been only one Christmas. The rest are anniversaries." It's a time for keeping the memory of God's greatest gift alive in our hearts... In recent years many people have expressed concern that Christmas has drifted far from its religious roots. We have also witnessed an attack on religious displays in public places while watching the corporate world hijack the Christmas celebration as an excuse to sell their latest wares. Massive traffic jams, packed shopping malls, and lines stretching around the block have become hallmarks of today's Christmas activities. Ad campaigns for holiday sales can lead to pandemonium as shoppers are knocked down and trampled in their frantic efforts to buy the latest gadget. However, I suggest this is a good time to reflect upon the distinction between what we want and what we need or what we give instead of what we get.

The true value of a gift isn't necessarily measured by its price tag. In fact some of the most precious gifts cost nothing at all... and can be life changing. Many people simply need to be loved, listened to, or appreciated. Some gifts, such as taking time to listen to someone who is hurting emotionally or giving a word of encouragement, can make a tremendous difference in a person's life and bring joy to the giver. This holiday season consider how our community would be affected if everyone looked for opportunities to give someone a life-changing gift for Christmas. As Helen Steiner Rice wrote; "Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind." May we receive this most precious of gifts ourselves and be that gift for others!

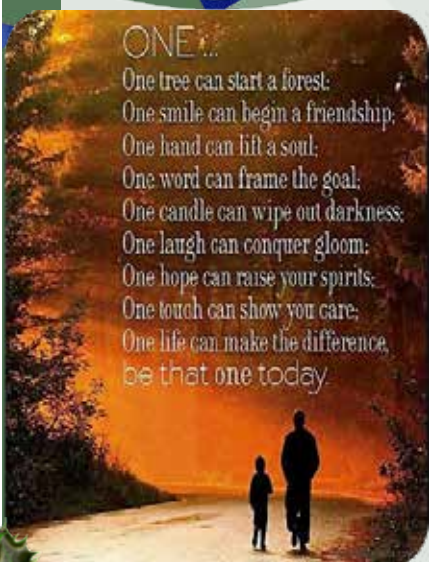
(Adapted from: Christmas; A Time for Joy, Reflection, Reverence and Tradition by D. GARY DAVIS)



Mary – her yes, our yes!

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make the difference,

You see, it's up to you



Our community of faith, our world
would be less without you in it!

You CAN & DO make a difference.

You DO matter

You Can change the world!!

Just Believe & Care!



A few suggestions for Family New Year Resolutions

Practice Gratitude as a Family It's a fact that the more grateful your children are, the happier they'll be their whole life through – and to me that's something worth shouting from the rooftops. *Please* and *Thank you* are the magic words! Don't let a day go by without saying thank you for at least 1 thing!

Go on More Adventures Think about how you want to spend your downtime. Weekends, evenings and holidays can be opportunities for adventure, but we often lose them in front of the TV because we fail to plan... make a bucket list of the fun you want to have as a family — then get those ideas on the calendar.

Give Warm Greetings and Farewells to Each Other It's easy to fall into the bad habit of barely looking up from games, homework, books or devices when family members come and go. Make a group resolution to "give warm greetings and farewells." This habit is surprisingly easy to acquire — it doesn't take any extra time, energy or money — and it makes a real difference to the atmosphere of home.

Be Silly Together & Celebrate Together Make time to have fun with each other. Celebrate & record achievements and milestones. There's a time when the goal of having FUN is more important than anything else. Don't underestimate the bonding effect of smiles & laughter.

Pray Together Encourage your children's faith by modelling your own. Encourage them to use words and sentiments from their own culture. Talk about your faith. Faith is the greatest gift that we can give to our children because we are showing them that we are sure that they are always loved, loveable and capable of sharing that love! No matter how dark or bad things get or how alone they feel they are always loved! What a gift!

Continue to Practice the Art of Waiting

Advent was a time for waiting and we live in a world of instant gratification. We hate to wait in line; wait for the fever to break for a sick child; wait while our computers & tablets "buffer;" wait to hear from the college of our choice; wait for our child to come home safely from the disco; wait behind slower runners or walkers at the 5k; waiting in traffic. We spend a fair amount of time waiting and losing our cool over it. We also spend a fair amount of time teaching our children how to wait ("No, you can't have sweets just before dinner"). So, we already know that there are benefits to waiting. So, what if we changed our thinking about waiting from an annoyance into a VIRTUE? Waiting then becomes an activity, and a pretty helpful one at that. By actively waiting, we are able to reflect more fully on what really matters. By actively waiting, we prepare our hearts for Christ to be born anew in them. The next time you're waiting in line at the bank, shop or on the M50, take that time to be reminded that God is waiting, too. The God who loves you deeply is waiting for you to open the doors of your heart.

Each of us is an innkeeper
who decides
if there is room
for Jesus!
Neal A Maxwell

A Prayer for Families

We pray for our families, big and small,
For all our children, small and tall.
It is our family that gives us strength
And time together is time well spent.
As we sit and listen to our
grandparent's sharing, We thank God above for their part in our caring.
Father, son, sister and brother, Nephew,
niece, uncle, aunt and mother.
Each member of the family has a part to play,
And is loved by God in a special way.
We pray for families this Christmas time,
That love and peace, they all may find.

AMEN



The Meaning behind our Advent Wreath

As all candles are lit on Christmas Eve

Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles: three **purple candles** and one **pink candle**. In the centre of the wreath sits a white candle. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle was lit. This candle is typically called the "**Prophecy Candle**" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming

Messiah. Each week on Sunday, an additional candle was lit. On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "**Bethlehem Candle**" symbolizing Christ's manger. On the third Sunday of Advent the pink coloured candle was lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "**Shepherds Candle**" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "**Angels Candle**" represents peace and was lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent. On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "**Christ Candle**" and represents the light of Christ that has come into the world.



Reaching out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can.

Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women. We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin. Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.' With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

Tríona Doherty



Magnificat of Acceptance

by Ann Johnson

My soul trembles in the presence of the loving Creator and my spirit prepares itself to walk hand in hand with the God who saves Israel because I have been accepted by God as a simple helpmate.

Yes, forever in the life of humankind people will sing of this loving encounter; through remembering this moment, the faithful will know all things are possible in God.

Holy is the place within me where God lives. God's tender fingers reach out from age to age to touch the softened inner spaces of those who open their souls in hope.

I have experienced the creative power of God's embracing arms and I know the cleansing fire of unconditional love.

I am freed from all earthly authority and know my bonding to the Author of all earthly things.

I am filled with the news of good things; my favour with God, faithful trust in the gentle shadow of the Most High, the mystery of my son, Jesus, the gift of companionship with my beloved kinswoman, Elizabeth. who believes as I believe. The place in my heart that I had filled with thoughts of fear and inadequacy has been emptied and I am quiet within.

God comes to save Israel, our holy family, remembering that we are the ones who remember, ... according to the kinship we have known ... remembering that we are the ones who remember and that where God and people trust each other, there is home.

A Family Prayer before the Christmas Meal



Loving God, on this Christmas day we give thanks that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy. Bless us as we sit down together at this table for our

Christmas meal. Bless the food we share and help us to remember those who are hungry. Be with our neighbours and our friends, those who are lonely, sick or away from home. We pray that our departed loved ones may now sit at your table in heaven. May the joy of this feast give us strength and light, now and in the days ahead. We ask this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. **Amen**



"Happily Ever After"

An original Panto by Clonalkin Drama Group, featuring all your favourite Characters, will be staged in Moyle Park College on: Saturday 12th January at 2pm

and 7pm, Sunday 13th January at 2pm, Friday 18th January at 7pm, Saturday 19th January at 2pm and 7pm and Sunday 20th January at 2pm.

Tickets are available at adult €10 and children €5 from Clonalkin Village Hardware, beside Tully's Castle



Beidh seirbhis Caruil ar siul ag 8.45a.m.maidin la Nollag roimh an Aifrin Gaeilge. There will be a carol service at 8.45a.m. before the Irish Mass on Christmas morning. Maíre



"Yes," said Queen Lucy. "In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world."
- C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle, p141

Have you taken our Christmas Doorstep Challenge Yet?!

Imagine how many Christmases could be brightened by a simple kind gesture.

The rules:

1. Pick someone who has had a tough time or would simply benefit from some festive goodwill
It doesn't have to be someone you know well

2. Choose a gift for them - big or small.

3. Write them an anonymous note, some kind words about why you were thinking of them.

4. Leave it all at their doorstep.

5. Knock on the door and leggit! - make sure they don't see you!

6. Feel happy knowing that you have spread some Christmas cheer with no expectations of anything in return.



The Excitement is Building!

Let's share and see if this catches on and we can spread a bit of Christmas magic. Miracles really do happen!

#Christmas #Doorstepchallenge

Share your Christmas Doorstep Challenge photos with us CCPC.Clondalkin@gmail.com

Christmas Word Search



XXBSIZYDREYVYHODEHZ
QSNQWFLAKETZRXSRY
TVYDWXYWDIZCENIRGB
RFAMILYGVYIMGVIOAC
UEYUQYPIPRLVFYLEAF
OGEBCITKEPMEEMZNS
GDWDYAXSTIGUAHZDOUT
PDATNASZOFKAYRISG
RJSNSILKURTYCJOTEY
LDCBEKECHCFVHQAJJ
LMFOIKURQONSAXJRYJ
AORGKCMPRESENTSBBZ
AMMVOATNAITSUPJEAF
SNYFOXSNOWMANWOLBM
ELLDCVAUKARWUNLEOY
XLZEJGMAOYLQRXGGRQ
WQNEBEGSKFTSPOIXYS
UKZLXCZLTBDWNZKMHZ

BABY JESUS
CANDY CANE
CELEBRATION
COOKIES
FAMILY
FROSTY
HOLIDAY
NATIVITY
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SANTA
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN

Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
he thought,
doesn't come
FROM A STORE.
Maybe **CHRISTMAS**,
perhaps, means
A LITTLE BIT MORE.
- The Grinch -

May your **Home** be warm,
your **Holidays** grand,
& may your **Heart** be
held gently in the Lord's hands.



Pick-a-Card Prayer Time

A favourite Christmas tradition is to put all the Christmas cards we receive into a basket on the dining-room table after you've read them. After Christmas, when life is less rushed, pull one card each day and take the time to truly cherish it and the message from its sender. Then we say a prayer of thanks for the person or family who sent the card. It is a way to truly cherish the gift of being remembered.



yummy gingerbread men

★ 350g flour ★

1tsp ground cinnamon

★ 1 EGG ★

4TBSP GOLDEN SYRUP

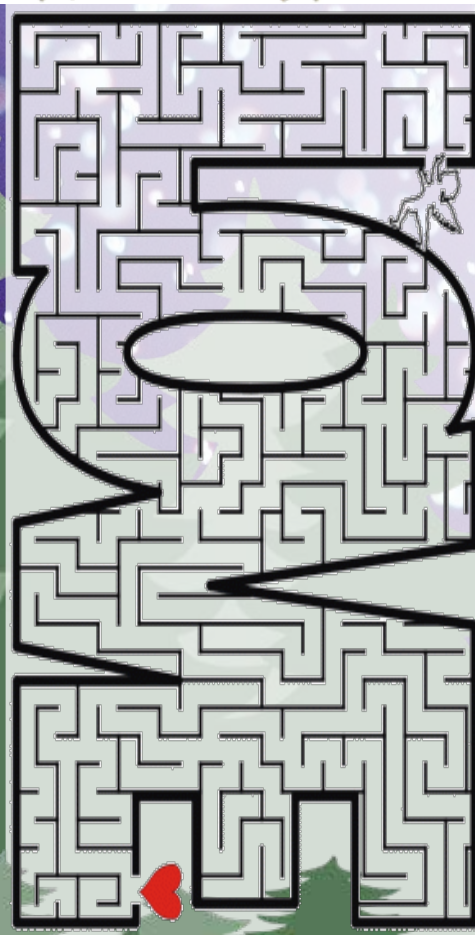
★ 130g Butter ★

1tsp bicarbonate of soda

175g light soft brown sugar

1/2tsp ground ginger

Mix flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger, cinnamon & butter. Then add sugar, egg & syrup. Cool for 15mins, roll, cut and bake - 180 degrees for 8-10 mins



Wishing you and yours every blessing for the season & a very happy Christmas from...

Fr Des Byrne, Fr Damian Farnon, Fr Shan Ó Cuív, Fr Padraig O' Sullivan, Fr Pearse Mullen, Fr Vincent Fallon, Fr Brian Starken, Fr Edvaldo, Fr Izaak, Fr Hugh Kavanagh, Fr Abraham Pathackal George, Fr Paul O'Driscoll & Sr Carmel Earls
Christina Malone & Frank Brown Parish Pastoral Workers for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin
Georgina Jameson, Parish Pastoral Worker for the parish of the Travelling Community

Contact us - CCPC.Clondalkin@gmail.com or [@TheCCPCDublin](https://www.facebook.com/TheCCPCDublin)





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- Monumental Service
- Horse Drawn Hearse

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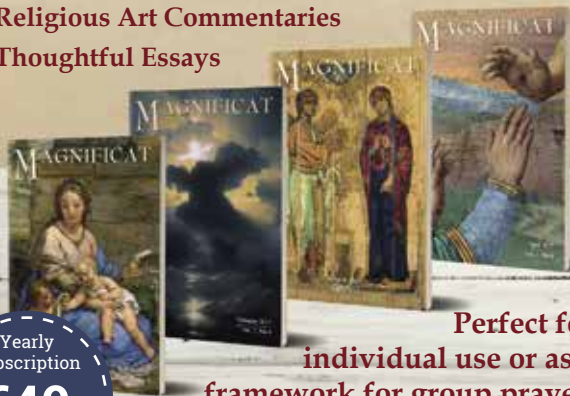
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