

Clondalkin Village Parish

Immaculate Conception & St. Killian Church



CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR EDITION



Clonburris ✚ Knockmitten

Parish Newsletter Sunday, 25th December 2016



Merry
Christmas

welcome at Christmas

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. 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. 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.

This year, we highlighted the importance of Advent as a liturgical season of its own and tried to avoid a headlong rush towards Christmas. To remind you of some of the Advent events. An Advent newsletter, Adult faith development, children's bulletin and activity calendar, scripture a-day calendar, four gifts for Advent, blessing for expectant parents, youth group door step challenge, Advent family prayer service, Icon of the Holy Family, DIY retreat for busy people, praying Advent with Pope Francis, Reconciliation Service, cards and a prayer service for those sitting examinations and two carol services.

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 and those who have made Clondalkin their home? Two examples of the generosity of parishioners were the collection for the Saint Vincent De Paul Society taken up in our three Churches which amounted to over €10,000 and over €1,800 collected for Brother Kevin's Centre in Bow Street at the Carol Service led by the Clondalkin Youth Band.

There are parish calendars for our visitors so please take one with you. A new initiative this year is the *Sung Rosary* in the Village Church on Christmas Eve at 6p.m. and the increasingly popular Evening Prayer of the Church at 7p.m. Christmas Night, all are welcome. On behalf of the Parish Team I wish you and yours wherever you may be a Happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Fr. Damian Farnon - Moderator Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin.

Masses

Clondalkin Village

Sundays: (Vigil) Sat 7.30pm,
Sunday 9am (Gaeilge)
10.30am (Choral),
12 noon (Family) &
5.30pm

Weekdays (Mon – Fri) 7.30am and
10am. Sat 10am

First Fridays 7.30am, 10am.

Holy Days 7.30pm (Vigil), 7.30am,
10am

Confessions Sat 10.30 - 11am &
6.45 - 7.15pm

Clonburris

Sundays (Vigil) Sat 6.30 pm,
Sunday 11am (Family);

Holy Days 11am

Confessions Before Masses

Knockmitten

Sundays (Vigil) Sat 6.30pm,
Sunday 10am, 12noon (Family)

Weekdays Mon to Fri 9.30am

Holy Days (Vigil) 6.30pm;
Holy Day 11am

Confessions Sat 6pm &
by request

Parish Office Hours

Clondalkin: Mon-Fri 9:30 - 12:30

Clonburris: Contact through Village

Knockmitten: Mon-Fri Mass times

Submissions for Newsletter:
Parishnewsletter1@gmail.com,
Office, Sacristy, by Tuesday
not later than 4.30pm

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Knockmitten Fr. Des Byrne CC 01 459 2323

Clonburris Fr. Shán O Cuív CC 01 459 3520

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little Christmas Thought!

(1 Corinthians 13 – A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny tinsel, but do not show love to my family or friends, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family and friends, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol sing in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my

family and friends, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the Christmas tree with shimmering angels and sparkling snowflakes, if I attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing carols with the choir but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to help another in need. Love notices and reaches out to support a friend in difficulty. Love is kind, even though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't expect or demand. Love doesn't yell at friends to get out of the way. Love doesn't cry for attention. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, gold necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, designer clothes will wear out, but giving the gift of LOVE will endure forever!



Beithlin Beo last weekend photos by Tommy Keogh



Clondalkin Active Retirement

What a wonderful morning we had on Tuesday last entertained by West Dublin Campus Choir, The staff of Wheatfield and Cloverhill, conducted by Dave dancing around the room playing his guitar, what a good laugh we all had, which was badly needed.

Words fail me to explain the pleasure our members got from this wonderful choir. We are indebted to Eugene Garrigan for arranging the choir to play for us as I am sure they have many demands for such wonderful entertainment. We

had a wonderful four days last week in Waterford, and please god we will have a wonderful 2017 with many outings to look forward to. A very Happy Christmas to you all. *Clare*



We are now taking a break and will be back on Tuesday 10th Jan 2017 and all who love the Word of God are welcome.

We wish a Blessed Christmas to all !!

Sr. Anne on behalf of the Group



Congratulations to

Karla Moody and Shaun Byrne

Who recently celebrated
the Sacrament of Marriage

“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.” *GK Chesterton*



**Week day Masses from
26th December to the 5th Jan
10am only**

Last Light Ceremony 4 to 5pm New Years Eve
in the Village Church to mark the closing of the
Calendar year - All welcome



Recently Deceased

Elizabeth Betty Gallagher, New Rd



*We offer our sympathies and prayers for their families and
friends at this sad time.*

On Christmas Day at 7pm - If you are at a loose
end and would like to finish off a beautiful day in
thanksgiving with like-minded people, well then
feel free to join us here in the Church on Christmas Day. The
Church opens at 6.30pm and Evening Prayer begins at 7pm
followed by refreshments in the Pastoral Centre. You may like
to share the left-over Christmas Cake, etc. with others please
do bring it along.



Fr. Padraig

BYSTANDER

The following poem by Fr. Mike is dedicated to all who
may feel they are not a part of the community but assure
them there are no strangers or bystanders in this parish
and all are sure of a *C  ad M  ile Failte* to all

"I saw a star and wondered "Why the brightness"
I heard the choir and wondered "Why the singing"
I spied the cave and wondered "Why this place"

I senses the night and wondered "Why the calm"
I approached the light and wondered "Why the
kneeling"
I heard the cry and wondered "Why the awe"

I saw a Mother and wondered at her heart
I felt my own and wondered "Why the pounding"
I turned away and wondered at my leaving!

Fr. Mike Ruddy from Seamless Robe

CCPC Intercessory Prayer for Clondalkin Parish Cluster. **This Tues** in the
Pastoral Ctr (Downstairs) from 7.30-8.30pm. All welcome.

Charismatic Prayer Group - Our Lady Queen of Peace. **Early Start** - **This wed**
Rosary before meeting - Missionary Rosary at 7:30pm before Prayer meeting at
8.00pm in Parish Pastoral Centre. All welcome.

In the same way, let your light
shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father
who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Village Church

Tuesday 27th December

10.00am Michael McDermott
Nora Sheridan

Wednesday 28th December

10am Brendan and Esther Callaghan

Thursday 29th December

10am Doreen Rackley

Friday 30th December

10am Christopher, Lillian and Brendan Behan

Saturday 31st December

10am Percy Reeves

Sunday 1st January 2017

7.30 Vigil Rita Connolly An, Bridget Leydon An
Muriel Brown 1st An, Deceased members of
the Stynes & Breen families

10.30am Catherine and Luis Delgado, David and Ellen
Minogue

12noon Sharon Whelan Delaney, Ann Seery, Patrick
Delaney, Tony O'Neill, Madeline Hodgins,
Mary and Patrick Hendly, Kathleen and
Danny O'Neill, Johnny Delaney, Derval
Connell 1st An, Martin Mc Loughlin Junior,
Mary Devlin MM

5.30pm Patrick Smith 29th Anniversary

4th January

10am Elizabeth Martin 1st Anniversary

5th January

10am Mary and Joseph Coughlan

6th January All Masses offered for all those on the
November list of the dead.

Masses on 6th January
Feast of the Epiphany



5th January 7.30pm Vigil - Village

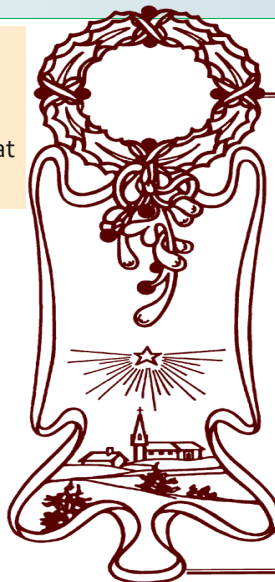
6th January 7.30am - Village

Morning Mass in - Clonburris, time to be confirmed.

10 am - Village

11am - Knockmitten

6.30pm - Clonburris



We Wish You All

A glad and peaceful
Christmastide
With all its memories sweet;
May hope and love and
joy be yours
With kindly friends to greet;
The echo of the angel's song,
The star's clear guiding light,
The **Christ** child in your
heart and home,
To make this
Christmas bright.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us

www.tarsus.ie

Is. 9:1 *But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS

This is an especially appropriate and loved reading for Christmas Midnight Mass and the setting of parts of this text in Handel's Messiah have made it even more familiar. The themes of darkness/light, child and the throne of David fit the feast. Nevertheless, it does come from a particular moment in history and has to be read first of all in its religious and political setting.

ORIGIN OF THE READING

As noted elsewhere, the present book of Isaiah reflects three distinct periods. The original Isaiah of Jerusalem was active from about 738 BC (Isa 6: 1) until 701 bc, perhaps until 687/6 BC, i.e. a considerable ministry of some forty or fifty years. His preaching is preserved in Is 1-39. The period was a time of transition from prosperity and security to insecurity and threat as the Assyrian empire flexed its muscles. In the time of Isaiah, there were several conflicts with Assyria:

743-738, 735-732 (the Syro-Ephraimite war), 714-705 and finally 703-701.

Our excerpt comes from the period of the Syro-Ephraimite war. During this time, Isaiah preached the uncomfortable view that the Assyrians, under the marvellously named Tiglath-Pileser III, were an instrument of God, sent to punish and to bring Israel back to true faith in Yahweh. Isaiah 1-12 deals with the condemnation of Judah (through Assyria) and God's offer of salvation through renewed fidelity. The cycles of promise (2-4) and threat (5-11) are interrupted by Is 6:1-9:7, made up of oracles dealing with the Syro-Ephraimite war. This block forms the core of Is 2-12 and provides the theological heart of the chapters. The traditions about Zion and the Davidic monarchy are expounded and explored. The typical pattern is threat, punishment, salvation.

KIND OF WRITING

Is 9:2-7 is a prophetic oracle in the form of poetry, reflecting the conventions and techniques of biblical poetry generally. The parallelism is evident, for instance, in vv. 2ab and 2cd. As the verses proceed, there is insistence by sheer force of repetition. Thus in v. 3, we have joy, rejoice, exult. The suggestion of dividing plunder (after and implied victory) at the end of v. 3 is continued in the military metaphors of vv. 4 and 5. Thus a reversal of a national calamity is envisaged. What has brought this about? The birth of an heir to the family of David. Tremendous hopes are placed on the shoulders of this child. Of course, there is no way of knowing that a child would have been able to achieve all this. Instead, the birth is taken to be a mark of God's continued fidelity to the house of David and the salvation to God will be the work of God himself. In all the colourful imagery in vv. 6-7, important words are profiled: peace, justice, righteousness.

OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

Several passages, too long to cite, come to mind: 2 Samuel 7; Is 2:4, 7:14; Is 11:1-2, 8-9

BRIEF COMMENTARY

Verse 2 Darkness represents the calamity which has befallen the kingdom of

Judah; light is used for deliverance through a new king "of David's line".

Verse 3 God is addressed ("you") and given the credit for the restored community, leading to great rejoicing. Harvest: the fruits of labour; plunder: the fruits of conflict already over.

Verse 4 Note the emphasis: yoke, bar, rod. In Judg 7-8, Gideon's victory over Midian delivered the people from foreign oppression.

Verse 5 An end to war is pictured here. Cf. *He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.* (Is 2:4)

Verse 6 The historical referent is a child born of Davidic ancestry. "Mighty God" might seem too much for a human being, but the NAB translated "God-hero". In any case: wisdom, heroism, fatherhood, peace. Prince of peace: the king establishes a save socio-economic environment for his people.

Verse 7 Peace is emphasised again. The import of the very last line has been well captured in the NET translation: The Lord's intense devotion to his people will accomplish this. This "zeal" is a covenant quality of God in relation to Israel.

POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. Recall times when you have "walked in darkness". What was it like? What helped you to keep going? Was there a turning point, when darkness turned to light?

2. A birth is always a joy! Think back to the joy of your own parents when you yourself arrived in the world. Use this very natural human happiness to come close to the happiness of today's feast.

3. Endless peace sounds great, but, as we know, peace is always "under construction", always fragile, always in need of support. Where have you experienced peace? What about your own commitment to be a peacemaker, a bearer of peace to others?

PRAYER

Loving God, our light and our hope, show yourself once more as our true guide. Teach us to recognise in your Son Jesus love which you alone give, the peace the world cannot give. Amen.

Monday Club - Welcome to you all and welcome Monday Club 19 December 2016

Today was the last Monday in the year for the Monday Club. We had our usual annual Christmas Party with all the goodies e.g. sandwiches, mice pies and cream, stolen and sweets, music and santa. We had great entertainment from Noel who played on the harmonica, Sr Anne on the whistle. She gave a great debut performance despite not being too well. Kathleen Finan sang beautifully despite her having a cold. Joan told us a funny recitation about a dog being man's best friend. Santa arrived on his reindeer which he left up in Phoenix Park where they grazed until visit to us was completed and was picked up and left back by car. Nowadays Santa has to use many modes of transport to get around the world. He gave out lots of presents to us, but kept some back for all the good girls and boys who could not get here today.

Frank, Parish Pastoral Worker, brought his guitar along and got a good sing-song of Christmas Carols going where everyone joined in.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Club in anyway and gave gifts for the club, eg Peggy O'Neill, Leo and Eibhlin. Joan, Collette and Josie, Alan, Martin & Anne and all of you who attend the club "thank you for all your help and co-operation. We had a busy year with all the different activities e.g. quizzes, bingo, outings, and hosting kept us all busy this past year. Hopefully the year ahead will be just as busy.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful healthy new year.

To those of you who are ill or can't come anymore, we pray keep you in our thoughts and prayers and best wishes too.

We will be back again on Monday 9 January 2017.

Take care till then - Kathleen R

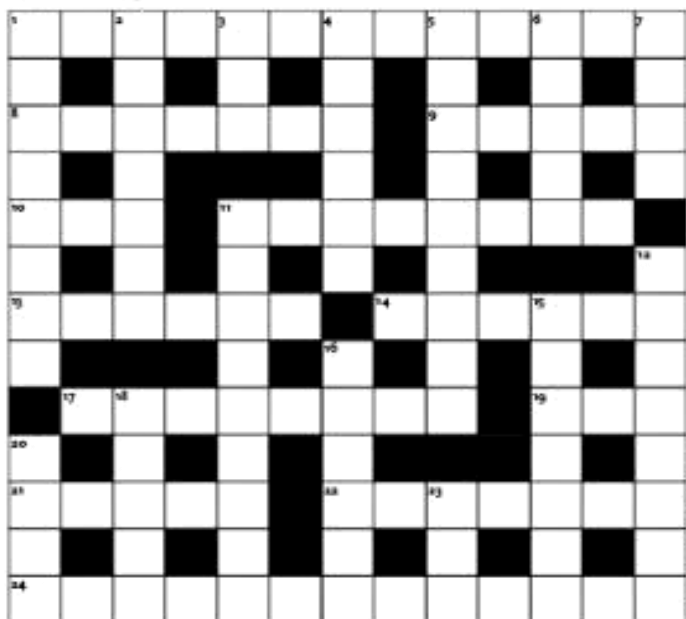


Christmas Guest by Winnifred Letts

If Mary came to the door to-night,
Her Baby sleeping upon her breast,-
Saying, "Let you share with me warmth and light,
For I bear in my arms the World's Desire,
But cold are His limbs, and we have no fire;
O stranger woman, may you be blessed,
If you open your door and give us rest."
If Mary stood and knocked at my door,
A thousand welcomes herself should find;
And she'd not be scorning a house so poor,
With the homespun linen upon the table:
No place she found one time but a stable -
With the poor dumb beasts were good and kind -
And a thatch to shield her from rain and wind.



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Start of a much-loved Christmas carol (4, 3, 6)
8. 'If a house is divided — itself, that house cannot stand.' Mark 3:25 (7)
9. Keen (5)
10. Before (old English) (5)
11. Sweet treats from years ago (8)
13. Pay attention (6)
14. Religious address (6)
17. Person who believes God's Word as summarised in the Book of Concord (8)
19. Uncooked (5)
21. 'The rock on which I build my church' (5)
22. Create a mental picture (7)
24. Its boughs are green, in summers glow and do not fade in winters snow (9, 4)

DOWN

1. 'Suddenly a great company of the — host appeared with the angel, praising God' (Luke 2:13) (8)
2. They do much more in an Anglican church than the name suggests (7)
3. 'He then made — bronze basins, each holding 40 baths' (1 Kings 7:38) (5)
4. Tacked on the end (6)
5. 24 across is one of these (9)
6. 'Would he — with useless words, with speeches that have no value?' (Job 15:3) (5)
7. Repair (4)
11. 'And there were — living out in the fields nearby' (Luke 2:8) (9)
12. 'Not a locust was left — in Egypt' (Exodus 10:19) (8)
15. 'The more the —' (7)
16. An inarguable fact (6)
18. Complete (5)
20. Great drama (4)
23. May have been found in the stable (5)





It is Christmas Day at last! I really love Christmas. It has that air of something that makes every one smile.

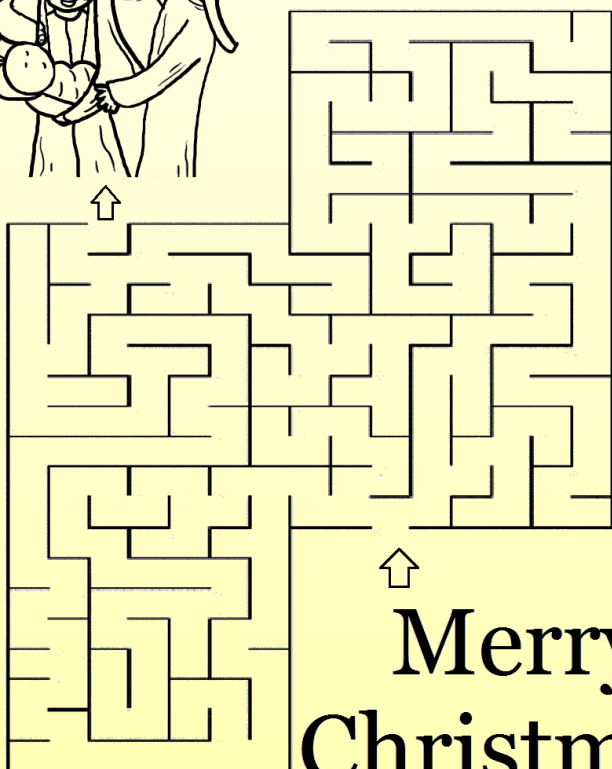
Hope you will call into the Sacristy after Mass to collect your gift if you have submitted a picture, but first please visit Baby Jesus and wish him Happy Birthday.

My Grandparents will be joining us for dinner. I invited them last Sunday. My Granny asked me for three good reasons why they should come. I promised a good dinner, presents but the best reason of all is because I love them.

From all the kids in the Parish a Happy, Joyful and fun-filled day to all - Ciara



Find your way through the maze.

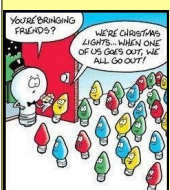


**Merry
Christmas**

Church House Collection ©



TAKING DOWN THE TREE AND DECORATIONS



Many families do this after Epiphany is celebrated in church, or wait until the next Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord. In some European traditions, the tree remains until "Little Christmas" on February 2 (Candlemas Day) No matter which date you choose, make this a special family time – with everyone helping as they are able. Play the last of the Christmas music – and be sure to serve hot chocolate and cookies afterwards and share the best memories of the season you have just celebrated together!!

Christmas Carols

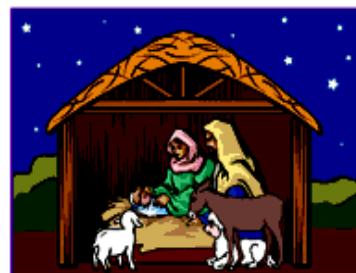
Can you fill in the missing words in these merry melodies?

- ❖ I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas
- ❖ Have yourself a _____ little Christmas
- ❖ Silent night, _____ night
- ❖ Here comes _____
- ❖ Jingle bells, jingle bells, _____ all the way
- ❖ O little town of _____
- ❖ Rudolf the red nose _____
- ❖ Let it _____ Let it _____ Let it _____
- ❖ _____ around the Christmas tree
- ❖ _____ the snowman was a jolly happy soul
- ❖ We _____ you a Merry Christmas
- ❖ O come all ye _____
- ❖ We three _____ of Orient are
- ❖ Hark! The Herald _____ sing
- ❖ _____ to the world
- ❖ Do they know it's _____ time at all
- ❖ God rest ye _____ gentlemen



Word Search - The Story of Jesus' Birth

Circle the words in red.



Luke 1:26-28

And in the sixth month the **angel Gabriel** was sent from **God** unto a city of **Galilee**, named **Nazareth**,

To a **virgin** espoused to a man whose name was **Joseph**, of the house of **David**; and the virgin's name was **Mary**.

And the **angel** came in unto her, and said, **Hail**, thou that art highly favoured, the **Lord** is with thee: **blessed** art thou among women.

Luke 2:7

Mary "brought forth her firstborn **son**, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a **manger**;"

Luke 2:15

"the **shepherds** said one to another, Let us now go even unto **Bethlehem**, and see this thing which is come to pass,"

Luke 2:36-38

Anna was a prophetess who recognized that the infant **Jesus** was the Messiah.

Matt 2:1,2

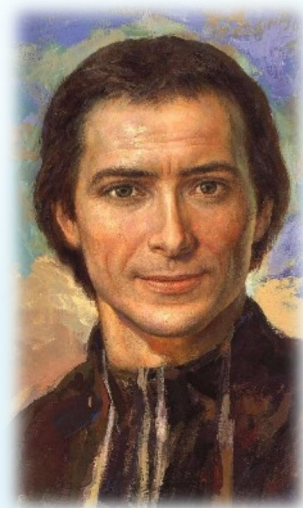
...there came wise men from the east to **Jerusalem**,

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the **Jews**? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

a	n	a	z	a	r	e	t	h	b
g	a	i	i	e	e	c	a	m	
o	d	a	n	g	e	l	e	i	a
d	f	h	d	a	v	i	d	i	n
j	e	w	s	b	m	a	r	y	g
e	s	i	o	r	d	t	u	v	e
s	w	b	n	i	a	n	n	a	r
u	j	o	s	e	p	h	n	m	b
s	u	n	b	l	e	s	s	e	d
v	i	r	g	i	n	t	b	l	e
s	h	e	p	h	e	r	d	s	m

Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Marist Brothers

On January 2, 1817 Marcelin Champagnat opened the door of the first Marist community in a simple little house of La Valla, in France. During the past 200 years many doors have been opened with the Marist key and today we find Marist Brothers and Laity, in the whole world. The Marists came to Clondalkin in 1959 and have provided generations of young men a quality of education in the spirit of Marcelin Champagnat. We congratulate Brothers Colman, Kieran, PJ and Nicholas and the wider Marist Community on the great occasion. The following is taken from the Marist website asking us to join with them spiritually on the 2nd January.



On Monday, January 2, 2017, at dawn as soon as the sun comes out, we suggest you to pray, saying "Good morning" in tune or union with the Marists of the five continents. Like Jesus, "in Capernaum, when daylight came, he left the house and made his way to a lonely place to pray" (Lk. 4, 42).

Dear Brother, dear Sister;

I hope you have a very good Marist Day. Today we celebrate two-hundred years of a dream. This was a dream that gradually took form, little by little, in a humble home and with very simple persons. This is a dream which two-hundred years later continues to be alive in the heart of thousands and thousands persons of very diverse cultures. Congratulations! Greetings because you form part of this Marist Family which is journeying with the will of transforming the world by accompanying children and young people. Congratulations because you have allowed yourself to be touched by the message: "May charity always reign among you. Love one another as Jesus has loved you; that you may have one same heart and one same spirit. Hopefully it can be said of you, Marists: Look, how much they love one another!"

In this new daybreak, we thank our Good Mother for the gift that God has given us with the Brothers and the Laity, the educators, the fathers and the mothers, the children and the young people who here, and in the whole world, live happily the Marist charism. In the same way as 200 years ago, today we open the doors of our lives so that the dreams may become a reality. Let us hope to be able to share and make them a reality with more brothers and sisters on the way, and that our Good Mother accompany us with the force of her tenderness.

With the dawn of this new day, we renew the hope that a new world is possible and that we want to begin it here and now, in union and in tune with the Marist Family of the five continents. Today, that once again "God makes the sun rise for everyone" (Mt. 5, 45), fill your life and that of those around you with light, especially that of those who need it the most. Persevere in the vocation of being honoured citizens and good Christians".

The Marist Institute was not born once and for all on January 2, 1817, but it continues to be born today. What a wonderful task it is to collaborate, two-hundred years later, in the birth of an Institute, which is always unfinished! Let us always love one another!

www.champagnat.org

New Beginnings

by Gertrude B. McClain

It's only the beginning now
...a pathway yet unknown
At times the sound of other
steps

...sometimes we walk alone

The best beginnings of our
lives, May sometimes end in
sorrow. But even on our
darkest days
The sun will shine tomorrow.

So we must do our very best
Whatever life may bring
And look beyond the winter
chill, To smell the breath of
spring.

Into each life will always
come

A time to start anew
A new beginning for each
heart
As fresh as morning dew.

Although the cares of life are
great
And hands are bowed so low
The storms of life will leave
behind
The wonder of a rainbow.

The years will never take
away
Our chance to start anew
It's only the beginning now
So dreams can still come
true.

From all the Clergy, Staff, Volunteers and Parishioners

