CLONDALKIN TIDY TOWNS

Clondalkin Tidy Towns wish to convey their appreciation for the recent voluntary work carries out by the students of Coláiste Bríde and to thank Ms. Spillan and Ms. Madders for their assistance in implementing this much needed help.

The success of 2012 could not have been achieved without the help of the community and its local authorities.

Pat O'Sullivan

WHEN CHRISTMAS WAS BANNED

Yes! Christmas was once banned.

Oliver Cromwell took over England in 1645. Supported by his Puritan forces, Cromwell believed it was his mission to cleanse the country of decadence.

He enforced an Act of Parliament banning Christmas celebrations. Christmas was regarded by the Puritans as a wasteful festival that threatened core Christian beliefs. Consequently, all activities relating to Christmas, including attending Mass, were forbidden. The ban was hugely unpopular and many people continued to celebrate Christmas secretly.

The War on Christmas lasted until 1660. Mince pies, holly and other popular customs fell victim to the Puritan attempt to eradicate every last remnant of merrymaking during the Christmas period. They viewed the festival (Christ's Mass) as an unwanted remnant of the Catholic Church.

The Puritans believed that you would be welcomed in to heaven as long as you worked hard in your lifetime, thus, enjoyment for enjoyment's sake was highly disapproved of. Women caught working on the Sabbath could be put in the stocks. They had to wear a long black dress, a white apron, a white head-dress and no makeup. The men had an equally sober appearance, dressed head to toe in black and sporting short hair.

Thankfully that's history!!

ADORATION IN THE PRAYER GROUP

Because the Penitential Service will be in the Church Wednesday evening 19th December, the Prayer Group's quiet time aside with the Blessed Sacrament in preparation for Christmas will not commence until 8.30pm in the Pastoral Centre finishing at 9.30pm and all are welcome

No prayer meeting on St. Stephen's Day

CAROL SINGING IN THE LIBRARY

All are invited to "Carol Singing" in the Library on Wednesday 19thDecember at 7.30pm. There will be a variety of old and new carols to satisfy all tastes and everyone can sing along too. Light refreshments will be served by the Library staff.

CHILDRENS CORNER

Jack Quinlan is this week's winner. Congratulation Jack! Your prize is waiting to be picked up by you from the Sacristy after Mass today. The answer was "Bernadette in Lourdes"

THIS WEEK'S OUIZ

Because it is Christmas we have an art exhibition. There are a variety of colouring pages available from the shop or at the back of the church for you to colour nicely. The finished pictures to be returned in time for Veronica to mount them for display at the back of the church! Fr. Damian has a prize for every entrant. You may enter as many pictures as you wish.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Notices and submissions for the Newsletter must be received before 10.30am on **WEDNESDAY** morning to be considered for inclusion into that week's edition. Envelopes marked "PARISH NEWSLETTER" should be left into the Sacristy or Parish Office.

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

Village

Office/Sacristy 459 3520

Fr Damian Farnon Adm St Cecilla's 459 2665

Fr Pádraig O'Sullivan CC St Columba's 459 2311

Fr Jim McCaffrey CC St Mary's 406 4329

Clonburris

Fr Shán O Cuív CC c/o Parish Office

Knockmitten

Fr Des Byrne CC 45 Woodford Drive. 459 2323



Parish Pastoral Workers (for the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin)

Peter Siney 089 461 4226

Christopher Okereke 457 3546

PARISH NEWS

Clondalkin Village, Clonburris & Knockmitten

clondalkinchurch@eircom.net

www.clondalkinparish.com

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No 51

FR. JIM RETIRES

At a meeting of the Core Group of the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin it was mentioned that Fr. Jim had retired. One of the members remarked had he retired because he had reached 75? On hearing that Jim was eighty seven, he was amazed and impressed that he was still working long after the normal retirement age for priests. Fr. Jim celebrated the diamond jubilee of his ordination this year and mentioned that he may take things a little easier. The cold snap of the last week or so convinced Jim to retire as it was proving difficult to get across from Kimmage Manor.

In his letter to Archbishop Martin, Fr. Jim mentioned his forty five years of service to the Archdiocese beginning in 1968 as Chaplain to Blanchardstown Hospital followed by Terenure and finally here in Clondalkin. He wrote that he was very happy to serve the people of God in Dublin and especially his last few years in Clondalkin. Jim had a particular care for the sick and house-bound whose pastoral visits they appreciated and assured them of our support and prayers. Fr. Padraig and I will follow up his and Fr. John's sick call lists. The Pastoral Council will have a farewell event for Jim towards the end of January or early February. In the meantime I once again thank Jim for his personal kindness and friendship to me and his dedication to the worshipping community of Clondalkin.

Fr. Damian

BAPTISMS

Congratulations and welcome to:

Koiya Faith O'Neill, Sundale Heights, Tallaght Séan Marchioni, Morristown, Newbridge Max Thomas O'Neill, The View, recently married. Rathdale, Enfield Cathal Dara McNamara, Castle Park Logan Mark Das, St John's Rd

recently Baptised.

ADORATION

This Thursday, 20th December Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be:

Sisters' Oratory: after 10am Mass to 11.45am

Sisters' Oratory: 7pm to 9pm and all are welcome

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Committee acknowledges with thanks €3,186 your contributions last week and €1,919 – your contributions this week.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLES

Christmas timetables and envelops for Christmas dues are now being delivered to all homes in the parish. If you still have not got yours they are available from the Sacristy or Shop.

NOTICES

Monday 17th December

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

Legion of Mary meets in the Convent at 12 Noon 7.30pm. New members are welcome

Tuesday 18th December

Lectio Divina under the guidance of Sr. Anne in the Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass and Rosary

WEDDINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Barbara Ann Coogan and Alan Leamy

DEATHS

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Phyllis Hurrell, Castle View Rd

recently deceased. May she rest in peace.

ANNIVERSARIES

Monday 17th December

7.30am Pauline Hudson

Thursday 20th December

10.00am Paddy Murray

Friday 21st December

Mary, Henry and John Aylward 7.30am 10.00am Michael Murray

Sunday 23rd December

7.30pm (Vigil) Olive, George and Brian Tully Patrick and Katie Fitzgerald

and deceased members Patrick and Mary Cosgrove and deceased members

Leo Murphy

9.00am James Norton, Snr 10.30am

5.30pm

Mary Kirwan and Geraldine

Lernihan

Peter, Paddy and Catherine Fitzgerald and Peter Brett

Bridget Brannigan, 7th An William Brannigan, 1st An

George McDonnell, 1st An

Michael Dunworth Liam Callaghan

Bridget and Barry Maher Seamus Egan, 5th An

Bridget Brannigan, 7th An

CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions

Saturday 15^{tht} December 6.30pm Maura o'Sullivan R.D

Sunday 16th December

11.00am Thomas, Mary and Melissa Tully An. Elizabeth O'Sullivan An. Michele Mollov An.

Competition Winner

Congratulations to this week's winners Eibhlin Roebuck and Bronagh Roebuck. Your prize can be collected after Mass today.

CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Ann Okoroh and Rita Arnold

Altar Linen: Vera Rogers

Flowers: Decorating of the Church

Christmas Eve

(Tuesday, Children's Confessions,

Wednesday 11am erection of Christmas tree, Thursday Wedding)

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

"A great light has come into world" the theme will be "light" to celebrate Year of Faith and to celebrate the Birth of Jesus so there will be lots of candles lit. Beginning for the 9am Mass on Christmas morning and continuing on to the 12 noon Mass the church we hope will be aglow with candle light. Because there are only a few on the team we would like people to volunteer to light the candles before the 1st Mass Christmas morning and others to extinguish them after 12 noon Mass. Help would also be welcome for the 7.30pm Mass and for the blessing of the Crib at 9.45pm Christmas Eve.

The church will be decorated after 10am Mass on Christmas Eve if you would like to be part of it.

LET'S MAKE IT A CELEBRATION

Next Sunday we would like to extend the Tea/Coffee to the parishioners who attend 10:30am Mass.

So please join us for Tea/coffee & biscuits in the Parish Pastoral Centre. Sunday 23rd December after 10:30am Mass.

BEITHLÍN BEO - LIVE CRIB

Live Crib, featuring live animals, actors and loads of Christmas Spirit will be held in Áras Chrónáin today, Sunday from 2.30pm to 6pm and they assure us it is a "must" for all the family. Admission is free.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!

From all involved in the Newsletter we wish all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. We send our prayers and best wishes to all in the Parish who are sick. housebound or grieving.

MONDAY CLUB

Susan Knight gave us a very thought provoking morning with her stories and poems relating to Christmas. She started off with "The Night before Christmas" which had us happily smiling and then she kept us amused as we listened to john D. Sheridan's take on the "aunts and uncles" visit on Christmas Day and what they did or did not want to eat and drink and wound up so full they "nodded" off. Maeve Binchy's story of herself at 6 years old was hilarious. Then we had some very sad and poignant tales all told so magically by Susan. She really has us enthralled by the historically recorded events from the time of Henry 11 onwards.

Thought for the Year of Faith: in this hectic time listen to Classical music and Carol Singing and prepare for Christmas inner peace.

Next week we will have our last gettogether until the New Year

Joan Steed