## WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?

Of what practical use is Christ, Christmas and Christianity? For some it is meaningless, for others it is a mad frenzy of indulgence, for more it is a sad time of year, a time of painful awareness of loss and loneliness. But for Christians, Christmas has always been what it is meant to be – CHRIST MASS with CHRIST at the centre. Christmas has always made a difference from the very first one 2000years ago to us today. It is Emmanuel – "God is with us" and wherever God is he fires up men and women to do great things.

"What great things are we doing" you might ask? One of the great things we do is to bloom where we are planted – even if it seems ordinary, humdrum or boring. Right now all of us are blooming where we are planted. We are praying at Mass and there is no better place to bloom. I am planted in this parish and I am meant to bloom here in the very ordinary things that priests do every day. I am not planted in a shanty town in Latin America, in a Missionary outpost in the Jungles of Africa, in a persecuted community in some war torn area, in an overcrowded hell hole of a prison or in a quiet monastery in a silent rural setting. It is in the ordinary that we find the extraordinary and people bloom no matter where they are planted even if it seems to be too ordinary to do great things. God is with us when we bloom where we are planted and most of you are called by God to be fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers right here in Clondalkin.

You have already bloomed where you were planted in the care of your children and grandchildren. They in their turn have already bloomed or will bloom in the future because of the seeds of faith you have planted in them. It may seem very ordinary and humdrum but it is the greatest work we can do. The blooming of what is planted

comes about because of the presence of Christ in Christmas, and he is especially so in our Mass where we are powered up to do the great things God wants us to do – to do the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary. We pray that we will persevere in faith, hope and love through the coming year.

Fr. Padraig

#### FAITH DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

The Faith Development Seminars begun during Advent will continue into the New Year at the request of those who attended our first three sessions. They will resume on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Centre. The format will be as before and based on Fr. Robert Barron's DVD series "Catholicism". More details on the church notice boards. Parishioners who have not been with us before for these seminars are welcome to join at any time during the programme, which will last until Lent.

#### CHILDREN'S CORNER

To all the children who submitted their paintings – thank you. We hope you claimed your gifts from Fr. Damian!

#### THIS WEEK'S OUIZ

Tomorrow we celebrate a very special occasion. You will notice that the crib has



extra figures placed within it.
What is the Feast and

what happened? Your entries to

Sacristy by Wednesday morning or email

– ellenteresacoyne@eircom.net by
Tuesday evening!

#### **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, Moderator St Cecilla's 459 2665

Fr Pádraig O'Sullivan, Co-P.P. St Columba's 464 0441

Deacon Seamus McEntee St Mary's 459 2311

#### Clonburris

Fr Shán O Cuív CC 087 238 7530

#### 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

Vol. 19

Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014

No 1

## LIGHT TO THE WORLD

A happy new year to you all our parishioners. Thanks to all who assisted in the preparation of the Last lights ceremony. Fr. Padraig and our Deacon Seamus led the parish in prayer. They remarked on the number of people who attended the ceremony combined with the prayerful atmosphere. For many people the time around Christmas and New Year is a time of great joy, meeting relations or friends. For some it can be the complete opposite, a time of loneliness, missing a loved one through death or emigration. As people of the light we are asked to bring that light to those whose journey through some of their life is a dark one. There are times when we just sit and listen and pray for that person. At our Nativity Scene we see the Christmas light, the figure of the infant Jesus and the Book of Gospels, opened at the beginning of John's Gospel.

On a sad note we extend our sympathies and prayers to the Presentation Community on the death of Sister Augustine and to Jim Flood, compositor of our newsletter whose Mother, Mary died this past week. May they and all our departed relations and friends rest in God's eternal peace.

Fr. Damian

#### WEDDINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to:
Hazel Bates and Darragh Scott
recently married.

### FEAST OF EPIPHANY MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

#### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION,

Masses are as follows:
7.30am, 10am and 1pm,
Evening Mass at 6.30pm in Clonburris
At 10am here in our church St. Joseph's
School will be in attendance and at 1pm the
girls from the local schools will be in attendance.

#### **LOURDES 2014**

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> May – 5nights **Hotel:** Jeanne D'Arc

**Fare:** €735 per person sharing

As we are limited to 30 places early

booking is advisable.

Booking forms are available in the 4. You, the parishioners who by your

Sacristy, Parish Shop and Office

#### CHURCH DUTY

Cleaning: Rita Arnold

Altar Linen: Deirdre Alexander

## EARLY START TO THE PRAYER MEETING

This Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January the Rosary - Mysteries of Light will be recited in the Prayer Group at 7.30pm prior to Prayer Meeting starting at 8pm in the Pastoral Centre and all are welcome

#### NOTICES

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Miraculous Medal Novena after 10am Mass and Rosary.

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Lectio Divina under the direction of Sr. Anne in the Pastoral Centre after 10am Mass.

#### **ADORATION**

This **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held **in the Sisters' Oratory:** 

**from** after 10am Mass to 11.45am, **and from** 7pm to 9pm.
All are welcome.

#### WE AGAIN SAY "THANK YOU"

The ministers of the environment – the people who decorate the church – once again voice their appreciation to:

- 1. Fr. Damian, Fr. Padraig, Seamus and members of the Pastoral Council by trusting us and giving your go ahead and encouragement
- 2. Phil, Marie, Lily and staff of Newlands Garden Centre for their advice and their lovely donation of the big Poinsettas
- 3. The volunteers who came along and by their artistic endeavours added to the joyous occasion we were about to celebrate
- 4. You, the parishioners who by your contributions make the whole lot possible and your appreciation is always welcome we really are only amateurs!
- 5. The decoration of the church does not belong to anyone person it is too big a task so feel free to join the group anytime

We wish all a very happy, joyful and peaceful 2014

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

10.00am Mary Coughlan

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January

7.30pm (Vigil) Mary Keane
10.30am John Mangan (Jr)
Vincent and Bobbie Norton
12 noon Craig and Nora Keogh
Joe and Josie O'Connor
Luke Barry
Anne Molloy
5.30pm Margaret (Peg) Nolan

## **CLONBURRIS Mass Intentions**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January

6.30pm Michael Murphy (1<sup>st</sup> An)

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January

11.00am Katie McDonald (An)

Mary Ann Byrne (An) Margaret Walsh (An) David Molloy (An) Eileen Lark in (RD)

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR CLONDALKIN CLUSTER OF PARISHES

An Intercessory Group plans to come together at 6.30pm Mass in Clonburris Church Monday 6th January as a start to a prayer initiative in the 9 parishes in the Clondalkin "Cluster" - Sruleen, Church of Immaculate Conception, Knockmitten, Clonburris, Deansrath, Bawnogue, Rowlagh/Quarryvale, Neilstown, Travelling People - The group consists of volunteers from the different parishes committed to meet of an our each week to unite in prayer support for our priests and parish communities in our area. We are also asking the prayer of parishioners for this intention please.

#### **MUSINGS**

There is a lovely custom practised in Central Europe on the eve of 6<sup>th</sup> January. This involves writing in chalk above the front doors of houses the letters C, M and B enclosed by the numerals of the New Year. For 2014, then, the inscriptions would look like 20+C+M+B+14. The letters themselves have a double meaning. They stand for the traditional names of the magi, or three wise men, who visited the Christ Child – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar – but they also function as the initials of a blessing for the home: 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat' ('May Christ Bless this House').

Salvador Ryan St Patrick's College, Maynooth

#### MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

**Please note:** new rosters now available for collection from the Parish Shop

#### WHAT IS FRANKINCENSE?

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2.11)

Like all good gifts, they were chosen carefully with the recipient in mind. There is significance of the behaviour of the Magi, in bringing these rare and valuable items. This proves from the very beginning that Jesus' birth was thought of as something special.

This symbolism was first proposed by Origen in his book Contra Celsum, where he wrote "gold, to a king; myrrh, to one who was mortal; and incense to a God".

Concentrating on Frankincense as we have obtained a small sample and is displayed on the table opposite the Offertory table comes from an old French word "franc encens" which literally means "High Quality Incense". It is a resin made from the sap of certain trees which is native to the Arabian Peninsula and the horn of Africa

Frankincense, as the Exodus verses explain, was something of divine note. When it was burned, the sweet smelling white smoke was often considered a symbol of the prayers of the Jewish people. It was used in extremely important ceremonies, being burned as an offering in the Tabernacle every morning and night.

"...My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations,' says the Lord Almighty." (Malachi 1, Verse 11)