

Troubled Eives

Graphic pictures on TV of an underground shelter in Kyiv, which had been turned into a makeshift maternity hospital, remind us of this truth. There, among other mothers, jammed together in appalling conditions, a young mother proudly showed off her baby boy, born a few hours earlier. Her husband was in the army defending his country. She was alone and isolated. The fear and stress in her eyes spoke volumes.

Love Knows No Bounds

In a spirit of solidarity with people everywhere who are homeless, displaced, fleeing from the hon:ors of war, or separated from their loved ones, we make a fervent prayer out of a favourite Christmas carol, 'O Holy NighC:

Btu/y He taught LfS to IN One f2ftSti'
His lv is love and his gospel is peace.
Cnnins strait He 6reek, for the slap is our brother
And in His name all oppression stn'll cease.'

Practical Love

Midnight Mass has a way of touching our hearts, rekindling love and friendship, deepening family closeness and enlivening community spirit. Warmth and goodness is shared with joy and generosity. Elizabeth Rooney in her lovely poem, 'The Housekeeper', paints a gentle and challenging picture:

'I must begin to go about tray day —
Sweep out the inn,
Get fresh hay for the manger
And be sure
o aue tny Dyer
In case there may be I:resellers from afnr.'

In Our Hearts

We revel in the awesomeness of that moment in history when the divine and human became one in the person of Jesus, God's only Son. We are humbled in the realisation that he dwells in our hearts. He calls us to be light, love, life and hope, in his name. Happy Christmas! ■

Summary

There is a temptation to glamourise the scene in Bethlehem, and of glossing over the real

The Word became flesh and lives among us still.

Question

What is it about Christmas that makes us feel so warm?

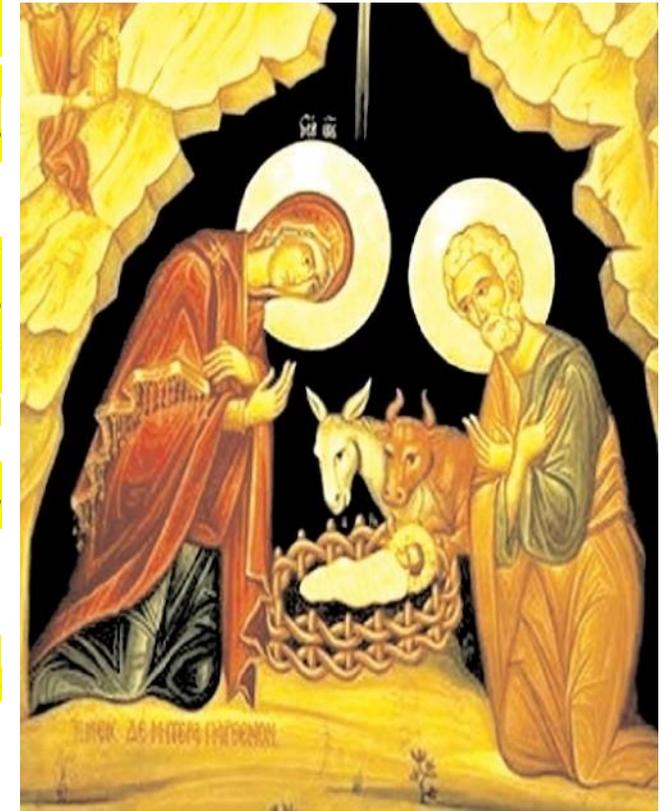
Prayer

Lord, come into the hearts of all people, both Christian and non-Christian.



Christmas Midnight LETTER

Series: The Seasona; Cluistmas Midnight: 21th December



in Glenstal Abbey Church. The monks entered the church in solemn procession, chanting 'Christus Natus Est. Venite, Adoremus'

(*'Christ has been born for us, Come let us adore.'*)

The hauntingly beautiful Gregorian chant created an atmosphere of mystery, prayer, wonder, presence and peace.

The Abbot placed the figure of the baby Jesus in the crib. The aroma of incense and the flickering of many wax candles added to the beauty and solemnity of this midnight gathering to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

In remembering this wonderful liturgy, there is a temptation to over-glamourise the scene in Bethlehem all those years ago, and of glossing over the real story. The words, 'No room', 'Full Up', 'Booked Out' must have been ringing

in the ears of an exhausted Joseph and his pregnant young wife, Mary.

The feeling of rejection surely cut deeply into their hearts. They had to settle for a smelly, damp, cold stable. There, on that Christmas night, Jesus, the Son of God was born.

Pope Francis tells us:

"Let us be amazed rri this scandalous truth. The one who embraced ttie Mft/uerse needfi to be field in another's arms ... Teftderness incarnate needs to be cuddled ... The Bread of life needâs to be nourished ... the Creator of ttie wârlld has no home. God cainefti into the wârlld in littiness." (Pg T-rancis. Midnight Mass 2021)

Its easy to look nostalgically into the crib, while mentally leaving the baby Jesus there. However, the Word has been made flesh, and lives among us still.

Church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall Parish

Part of the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes

(Ballygall, Ballymun Rd, Corpus Christi, Glasnevin & Iona Rd)

Christmas Day – 25th December 2022

Parish Website www.ballygallparish.ie Email ballygallparish@outlook.com

Registered Charity RCN 20016166

Parish Team

Fr. Joseph Ryan Co-P.P: Ph 8573776 Fr. Harry Gaynor Co-P.P: Ph 8342248

Fr. Paul St. John PC: Ph 086 2250689

Sacristy/Parish Office: Phone 01 8369291 (Closed this week apart from after 10am Mass)

Mass Intentions Monday 26th December to Sunday 1st January		
Monday	10.00	Special Intention
Tuesday	10.00	Michael Murphy
Wednesday	10.00	Funeral – Patrick Cullen.
Thursday	10.00	Margaret, Frank & Kevin Bouchier
Friday	10.00	
Saturday	10.00	Maureen Montgomery & Family.
	6.30	
Sunday 1st January 2023 Happy New Year	10.00	Bridget & William Marks, Sadie & Michael Kinsella, Tommy Reilly
	11.30	Josephine, William, Frank & John Donnelly; Gretta Grogan & deceased Moone & Grogan families.

Recently Deceased

We remember in our prayers, recently deceased, Pat Brady & Pat Cullen, Glasanaon Rd.

Christmas Dues

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the Christmas Offering through the envelopes and 'Tap & Go' machine. Your support is greatly appreciated by not only the priests of the parish but also the priests throughout the diocese including sick and retired priests.

Common Fund/Share Fund

During November, the Tap and Go machine in Ballygall Parish collected €597.00 from 56 transactions. This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to Share.

Christmas Week church arrangements

The Church will open shortly before 10am Mass and remain open each day, including Christmas Day. You are invited to come and spend some time in quiet prayer before the crib. Mass times during this week and next will be 10am Mass only.

No 7.25am Mass until Monday 9th January.

Christmas Thank You

The Parish Team wish to thank all who support our work in the Parish of Ballygall and wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas. May the kindness of God be your strength in the year ahead. Fr. Joe, Fr. Harry & Fr Paul.

Nollaig Shona:

Feliz Navidad:

Maligayang
Pasko:

Feliz Natal:

Buone Feste
Natalizie

Shchaslyvoho
Rizdva

Sacristan Position

Our thanks to our volunteers who have filled the post of Sacristan for over the past year so well and have brought their own gifts into service in the church. Our Mother of Divine Grace church has a vacancy for a sacristan.

The role is to provide a high level of support to the priests and secretary in the general running of the parish. This role is offered initially on a one-year, fixed-term, part-time basis at 20 hours per week approx. **including** weekends.

The duties will involve the preparation of the church for all liturgical services, opening and closing the church at agreed times; ordering altar and cleaning products and ensuring the church is maintained to a high standard.

The successful candidate should be reliable and have a flexible approach, be able to work well independently as well as within a team with strong interpersonal skills and experience of dealing with the public. We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria and are interested in playing an active part in the Parish. Closing date for applications is Friday 30th December 2022. See poster/parish website for full notice.

Family Table Prayer for Christmas Day:

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.**

World Day Of Peace

The 56th World Day of Peace will be celebrated with a special Mass in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on **Sunday, January 1, at 11am.**



Fröhliche Weihnachten:

Sheng Dan Kuai Le:

Bon Nadal:
Joyeux Noel:

Boze Narodzenie

Rehus-Beal-
Ledeats:

Happy Christmas
and new year.



The last hne comes with a punch. The deepest identity of this httle baby is that he is the Son of God. He is truly God. Mary kisses God.

The Invisible Becomes Visible.

Something extraordinary happened that first Christmas: the invisible Gud became visible to human eyes, had a human face and was audible with a human voice. Jesus is truly God, but also truly human. In his face we see divine love made visible. We louk into the innocent eyes of one whose gaze has the power to transform our hearts in love.

Small, So We Can Draw Near

There was once a man who found it very difficult to grasp the Incarnation — why would God become human? One day he finally got it. When he saw a bird trapped in a fence, he went over to free it; but the bird panitked when he came too tlose; the bird was so afraid of him and his size. After withdrawing some distance the man observed other birds coming with food for the trapped bird, and this time the bird remained calm.

One of Us

It then dawned on him that God became one of us so that we would not be too afraid to draw near to him. Because God has become one of us, we can open our hearts more easily for him to love us. Had God come, without his power being veiled by the humanity of Christ, our sinfulness would frighten us away from him. However, the Good News is that God loves us so much that he humbled himself in a little baby, and so could raise us up. ■

Summary

We are called to look into his innocent eyes, whose gaze has the power to fruits/orm and soften our hearts in love.

Grid became one of us no that we would not be aftaid to draw near to him.

Question

tWho exactly does Mery hold iit her arms in Bethlehem?

Prnyer

Lord Jesus, may I not be afraid of letting you come close to me.



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¥'ol.45; No.5a; Christmas Day, Year A;
2o Dec 2U22; tteadings:tSaiah 2!7-10,
Psalm 97, Hebrm*s 1:1-6, John 1:1-18;
Text \Veek: Mother o I God.
Sal 24 Dec Christmas Eve ! Sun 25 Dec
Christmas Day : Mon 26 Dec St
Stephen : Tue 27 Dec St John : Wed 28
Dec. Holy Innocents ! Thu 29 Dec
Thomas à Becket : Fri 30 Dec Weekday
: Sat 31 Oec Sylvester Sun 1 Jan Clary
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Christmas Day LETTER

Series: The Seasons; Christmas Day; 25th December



There are so many truths to ponder about the birth of Christ, so lets start with just one. Who exactly does Mary hold in her arms in Bethlehem? The manner in which we answer this is what makes us Christian; it is what shapes the way we live our lives.

Have you heard the song "Mary did you know"? It is a beautiful meditation that helps us identify the baby Jesus:

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*"Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God."*

