

Our Parish...1988

Earlier this year (2019) I received with thanks a copy of St. John's Parish Newsletter from 1988. It was very well presented by the editorial team of Gerry Glanville, Maria Power, Brendan Wadding, Anne O'Shea, Leo Dunne and Fr. Conor Kelly. It was a 'Hail and Farewell' occasion for Fr. Kelly as he was leaving the parish for pastures new earlier in the month of December. He had grown up in the parish, ministered here as deacon and St. John's became his first ministry. His work with the youth of the parish, and on the production of the newsletter, are but two examples of the high quality of devoted service rendered by him to the parish.

Priests of the parish were Very Rev. John Boyle, Rev. Michael Enright and Rev. Joe Condon.

The message inside the first page, written by Fr. Boyle was entitled 'Empty Hearts for Christmas' and spoke of 'not forgetting that Christ choose to be born in poverty in a stable and that we must not allow the material comforts and possessions of this life to take complete hold of our hearts.'

A warm welcome was given to the 'Folk Choir', who, it was noted' will help us at the evening Mass every Sunday.

An article was included entitled 'On you Bikes for Fun Camp.. started by Fr. Enright in July 1984 to cater for children ages 8 - 14 to participate in organised games and activity at the Parish Centre. To fund this enterprise, a sponsored cycle took place in May to Woodstown. The highlight of of last year's (1987) camp was a trip to Trabolgan where over 80 children had a wonderful time. Organisers were: Fr. Enright, Breda O'Donnell, Ita Ennis, Maura Phelan and Nellie O'Leary.

The Parish Centre was mentioned in the Newsletter and it appears from the article written by Mr. Jack O'Keeffe, that 'a lot more

parish involvement' was needed for the centre to survive. New ideas and suggestions were requested and could be passed on to the hall committee.

Congratulations were in order to the members of our Bowling Club - Mrs. Nancy Flynn, Cork Rd and Mr. Tommy Breen, Poleberry - who won the Double Bowls Competition, organised as a fringe event at the Waterford International Festival of Light Opera.

Forty five parishioners passed away to their internal glory in 1988. During the year, thirty two baptisms were celebrated and seventeen marriages took place in our church.

And finally, the departure of Fr. Conor Kelly signalled the return of Fr. Michael Enright whose dedicated service to the parish was beyond elaboration.

Did you know....



The Crib

Saint Francis of Assisi launched the crib devotion. He made a crib at Greccio in 1223, three years before his death and the idea of a Christmas crib

became popular and has remained with us ever since.



Santa Claus

Santa Claus gets his name from St. Nicholas who lived in Turkey during the fourth century A.D. He was imprisoned and tortured by the Emperor Diocletian but was later released by Constantine. St Nicholas once gave three bags of gold to three girls, saving them from a life of misery.

The Advent Wreath

The advent wreath is made of evergreen leaves and branches which remind us that God is unchanging, eternal. The round shape of the wreath reminds us that God is without beginning or end.

The three purple and one rose represent the four weeks of Advent. The purple candles remind us of penance and sorrow for sin. The rose candle reminds us of the joy of living in God's presence.

The white candle is lighted to celebrate the Birth of Christ, the light of the world.

On a lighter note....

Bubba was from Tennessee!!!

Bubba is a hard-shell southern Baptist. He loved to sneak away to the race track. One day he was there and betting on the ponies and losing his shirt as usual when he noticed a priest step out onto the track and bless the forehead of one of the horses ling up for the 4th race. Lo and behold, this horse - a very long shot - won the race.

Bubba was most interested to see what the priest did the next race. Sure enough, he watched the priest step out onto the track as the horses for the fifth race lined up and placed a blessing on the forehead of one of the horses. Bubba made a beeline for the window and placed a small bet on the horse.

Again, although another long shot, the horse the priest had blessed, won the race. Bubba collected his winning and anxiously waited to see which horse the priest would bless in the 6th race. The priest showed, blessed one horse, Bubba bet on it and it won! Bubba was elated.

As the day went on the priest continued blessing one of the horses and it always came in first. Bubba began to pull in some serious money and by the last race he knew that his wildest dreams were going to come true. He made a quick stop at the ATM and withdrew big money and awaited the priest's blessing that would tell him which horse to bless on.

True to his pattern, the priest stepped out onto the race track before the last race and blessed the forehead, eyes, ears and hooves of one of the horses. Bubba bet every cent and watched the horse come in dead last.

He was dumbfounded. He made his way to the track and when he found the priest, he

demanded, "What happened it lost. Now I have lost all my savings, thanks to you!"

The priest nodded wisely and said, "That's the problem with you Protestants ... you can't tell the difference between a simple blessing and the Last Rites."

I would like to dedicate this funny story to the late Paddy Lowe who told it at his son's wedding. I would also like to remember the late Helen Parle who enjoyed the stories in the Newsletter and also to the late Chris Kelly - all three of whom died during this year after giving many years of service to our parish. May they rest in peace.

Holy Cow

The wise old mother superior was dying. The nuns gathered around her bed, trying to make her comfortable. They gave her some warm milk but she refused it. Then one nun took the glass and brought it back to the kitchen.

Remembering a bottle of whiskey they had received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and put a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at mother superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips and she drank a little and then a little more and then before she knew it she had drunk the whole glass down to the last drop. Mother superior, the nuns cried, "give us some words of wisdom before you die."

She raised herself up in the bed with a pious look on her face and pointing out the window she said, "whatever you do, don't sell that cow!"

In Loving Memory...



To you O Lord we commend the souls of our brothers and sisters whose anniversaries or month's mind occur at this time.

Remember in Your Prayers those who died recently - .

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:-

6.15 Vigil – Saturday 21st December

Maura & John Kirby

9.00am – Sunday 22nd December

Ann (Nancy) Walsh

12 Noon – Sunday 22nd December

Gerry Lowry

SHARED MASSES/ ANNIVERSARIES:-

Michael & Annie O'Neill, son Nicholas and

grandparents Nicholas & Margaret Jacob

Emily & Michael O'Gorman

Mary & Patrick DeCoursey & Family

Patrick & Agnes Duffin

Paddy & Eily Murray

Bosco Quinn and his father John

Thomas Morgan

Thomas Waring

Charlie & Bridget Lowe and son Fergus

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Notice Board

LAST WEEKS COLLECTIONS

Envelopes €470.00

Offertory €631.00

2nd Basket Collection €435.00

The 2nd Basket Collection for the upkeep of the church buildings takes place at all Masses on the third weekend of each month.

Priest's Collection

The Christmas Collection for the priest's of the diocese is being taken up at all Masses on Christmas Day. Please give as generously as you can. **Thank You**

Thank you once again for your continued and generous support.

In Appreciation...

St Vincent de Paul

We would like to thank the parishioners of St. John's for their donations this year to the needy of our city and to the children who donated beautiful gifts for needy children and to their parents and teachers. We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas season.

St. John's – Thank you

The Liturgy Group at St. John's on behalf of Fr. Murphy would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who so generously provide their time and their talents, day in and day out, for our parish. This includes not only those who help out in the church but also those who assist throughout the community in innumerable ways.

Just a thought...

In Hospital

You are asked to remember in your prayers this Christmas, those parishioners who are sick at home or in hospital, especially those in Waterford Regional, St. Patrick's and all our nursing homes. *To you we send our prayers and best wishes.*

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas Reflection

There is an old Christmas tradition that God sends each person onto the world with a special message to deliver.

With a special song to sing for others. With a special act of love to bestow.

No one else can speak my message or sing my song or offer my act of love. These are entrusted only to me.

According to this tradition, the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love only delivered to a few. Or to all the folk in a small town or to all the people in the whole world. It all depends on God's unique plan for each person.

At this holy time of Christmas when we are recalling the fact that God, that God sent God's son into the world for us, I want to say.....

Your message will be heard in many hearts, your song will bring warmth to the world and your love will brighten the darkness.

Happy Christmas

A Very Happy Christmas to all who come to St. John's including all visitors home for the Christmas Season. May the peace of Christ be with you and your families this Christmas and in the coming year. May Christ bless and heal you now and always.

Fr. Paul Murphy

St. John's Church Waterford



Sunday Dec 22nd 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mission Statement

With Christ's teaching as our example and guided by the Holy Spirit, our aim is to represent an open and friendly parish providing a service to the community of St. John's and reaching out to everyone in developing the parish as a community of faith.

Christmas Day Readings:

Is 52:7-10.

Ps 97:1-6, R/ v 3.

Heb 1:1-6.

Jn 1:1-18