

Ennis Parish Link

Issue 44 Christmas 2011



Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Christmas Message from Bishop Kieran

Dear Friends in the Parish of Ennis,

I take this opportunity, as we draw near to the Christmas season, to send to you and your families warm greetings on this special Feast of the birth of Our Lord.

The birth of Christ is a glorious announcement of God's enduring love for all peoples. We read in St. Luke's Gospel how the angels expressed this wonderful truth when they sang at the first Christmas:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven
And on earth peace for those he favours"
(Luke 2:14)

The child born for us is present amongst us for the Glory of God and for peace; peace for all peoples. These are powerful thoughts and invite us to contemplate the mystery of God's love, to entrust ourselves to God who gives us the gifts of faith and hope.

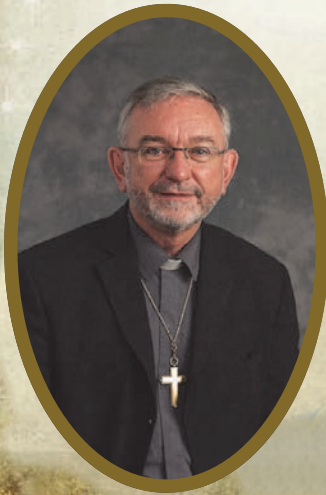
In my recent pastoral letter, issued on the first anniversary of my ordination, I recalled the words of Jesus from the Gospel of St. John: "I have come so that you may have a life and have it to the full" (John 10:10) as the central biblical theme of the Letter. The message of hope and love that has been brought to us through the life of this child, whose birth we celebrate at this time, is ultimately about each one having life and having it to the full. This is the reason for our celebrations this and every Christmas. May the coming year be a time when we draw fuller life from the mystery of God's presence and, in turn, give life in God's name to those whom we encounter in our daily lives.

May this Christmas be joyful and peaceful for you and your loved ones, especially those who are far from home: may the living God, who is with us always, deepen our faith and enliven our hope throughout the coming Year.

Beannachtaí na Nollag and brat Mhuire oraibh.

+ *Kieran*

Christmas 2011



A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room; and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the One whom the rulers of the earth ignored, and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible.

I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God; the need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

Ennis Woman Who Was Honoured by Red Cross



Throughout the centuries many people from the town of Ennis went all over the world and quietly and without fuss or publicity left their stamp wherever they went. One such person was Dr. Breda Moylan. She was the eldest daughter of the Late Dr. Patrick and Honora Moylan of Bindon Street, Ennis. She went to school at the Convent National School, the Colaiste Muire and later Rathfarnham Abbey in Dublin. From there she went to U.C.D. where she qualified as a medical doctor in 1958. Her first great trial as a young Doctor was the day of the collapse of Carmody's Hotel. Her father was away for the day and she was doing duty for him when word came to her of the disaster in Abbey Street. She rushed down and immediately began to work on reviving the injured as they came out from the debris. She worked for twenty minutes on the late Ernest De Regge. She then went to Colaiste Muire to tell Gislaine De Regge of her father's death. She then accompanied Fr. Queally to Limerick to collect Mrs. De Regge and bring her back to Ennis. After that she brought Sean Donlon to the County Hospital to identify his young brother and then with Fr. Queally to meet Mrs. Donlan in Bindon Street. It was a very traumatic day for a young doctor and showed her inner strengths which stood to her in later life.

She then went to work in the Children's Hospital in Temple Street. The call to the Missions was always one of her ambitions in life and so she went to Nigeria to work as a missionary doctor. She worked hard and showed marvellous sympathy for the lot of Nigerian women. One of the things she always felt badly about was the number of young women who suffered greatly from dropped womb. This occurred when the girls as young as twelve years started to give birth and continued to do so every year virtually throughout their young lives. By twenty five many suffered terribly from dropped wombs. She started a programme of going out to the rural villages with an Irish surgeon and with an ambulance and field hospital would repair damaged wombs all over the Nigerian countryside. On one occasion she was on her way with a friend for a weekend rest up to the capital city of Lagos when she came upon a disastrous rail accident. She worked with her friend for three whole days on the injured. She was later honoured by the Nigerian Government and also by the Irish Red Cross. Then came the war with the cessation of Biafra. She was caught behind the lines all throughout the war. She constantly attended the



wounded and often mentioned all the young men who lost their legs. The Holy Ghost Fathers were very protective of her and came every night to protect her. After the war she was deported back to Ireland.

When she returned to Ireland she worked in the maternity wing of St. James Hospital in Dublin. She always said that in emergencies with maternity patients a doctor has only split second to make a decision to save a life. She always boasted that in her fifteen years there she never lost a mother. After James Street Hospital she went into private practise with three other friends in Dublin. She covered all areas in Dublin especially the Ballymun apartment area. Her stories of attending patients in Ballymun were very frightening. She could never go anywhere without a bodyguard. Sometimes she had two bodyguards, the second one to protect her car. She had many of her cars burnt out. She also suffered two terrible muggings where she refused to hand over the medicines. A lady who forgot her handbag saved her in the second one. She spent nine months laid up after it. Once she was called out late at night to an old lady who turned out to be old Mrs. Fossett, the circus people. When she told Mrs. Fossett that she was from Ennis, she had to listen to an angry tirade from her over the Ennis U.D.C. refusing to allow them to hold their circus in the Fair Green where they were performing before many of the councillors were even born.

The rest of Ireland is not aware of the dangers doctors face when on call or carrying out clinics in Dublin. Dr. Breda showed extraordinary courage and inner strength when carrying out her medical duties as a lady doctor in Dublin. Medicine was her real vocation in life and she never failed to answer a call no matter what time of the day. If you had no one to collect your medicine she would jump into her car and get it for you. She worked right up to the end and at eighty two years of age was found in her armchair doing the Irish Times Crossword. Many Clare people came to her funeral in Dublin and praised her for her love of County Clare and Ennis and her most fervent desire to help those in need and in sickness. She never wanted recognition for her work and in that respect was always very private. She was one of those people who passed through life without fanfare, but enlightened the lives of those she knew and helped. She was a great soul.

Oliver Moylan



Friary Christmas Message 2011

A few years ago, in a Catholic paper, there was a series of letters about the increasingly busy lead-up to Christmas. Christmas decorations now appear in November, shopping for presents, Christmas cards and parties feature from early December. "This is crazy!" one writer declared, adding that for the famous English writer Hilaire Belloc, Christmas began at 5pm sharp each Christmas Eve, when he went out to his garden to cut down the Christmas tree. "That's nice for him", someone replied, "I wonder when it began for Mrs. Belloc?!"

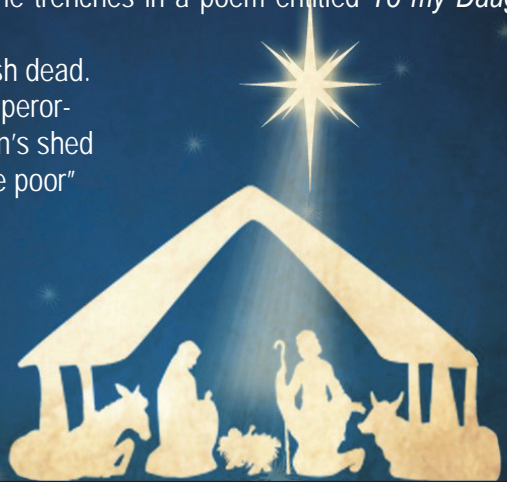
I'm not sure what Christmas was like for Mrs. Belloc! But the point is well made. In the 'real world' there are plenty of things to do in the run-up to Christmas and a certain amount of busyness can't be avoided; cards need to be sent, toys need to be bought, food must be prepared, concerts and Nativity plays attended, choir practices arranged... The list goes on and on. The Christmas season doesn't just happen, it requires a lot of thoughtfulness and generosity and a willingness to make time for others. Christmas is a special time for our families and many people still make extraordinary efforts to be at home for Christmas.

In the midst of all the activity is the *Meaning* of Christmas and the reason for our amazing hope. It is the Gift of God, born into this world so simply and so humbly. That Gift has the power to touch hearts and to give hope in any place and at any time. The World War I poet Tom Kettle wrote these beautiful lines from the trenches in a poem entitled *To my Daughter Betty, the Gift of God*:

"Know that we fools, now the foolish dead.
Died not for flag nor King nor Emperor-
But for a dream born in a herdsman's shed
And for the secret Scripture of the poor"

On Christmas Eve, at midnight Mass, the Church all over the world bends down and looks again in wonder, into the "herdsman's shed", as the shepherds did long ago. This Christmas, may you know the peace and the joy of the Gift of God. On behalf of all the Friars, I wish you and your family, both near and far away, a blessed and a happy Christmas.

Fr. Liam Kelly OFM
Guardian.



Charles Louis "Mons" Nono 1834—1889

In September 1859 Charles Louis Nono from Belgium and his wife Eileen O'Byrne arrived in Ennis to take up his dual roles of Music Teacher in St. Flannan's College and resident organist at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul. Charles Nono was born in Roselane Belgium in 1834 the second youngest of eleven children of Anthonis Nono, the Church musician carillonist and bell ringer of the Saint Michiels Church. His seven sons and four daughters all practiced the fine art of music and song. Ennis people took to the new music teacher and gave him the name Mons a shorter version of the French title Monsieur.

Mons Nono was to be a great influence on music and culture in Ennis and the surrounding areas. He took on the task as band master to Ennis amateur band and performed concerts in the various towns of County Clare. A new organ was installed in the Cathedral during his term. This instrument was replaced in the 1930 and is still in use in the Parish Church in Rathgar.

Mons and Eileen reared their family of six children at 41, O'Connell Street (opposite the Town Hall) where they ran a music and jewellery shop.

Mons died unexpectedly on July 16th in 1895. His son Donat took over the post of organist and teacher at St. Flannan's College.

Another Belgium organist was to follow in Mons Nono steps. In March 1920 - a tall thin man with a moustache named Antoine Slickz was appointed organist at the Cathedral until his death in February 1923. Ernest de Regge was his successor.

Acknowledgement Ghislaine de Regge and Charles Nono



Ennis Brass Band Celebrates 40 Years

Ennis has enjoyed a long history of Brass Bands, regimented Brass Bands were located throughout the County in Newmarket, Ennistymon, Kilrush, Kilkee and Ennis.

The present Brass Band was constituted in 1971 when a group of visionaries set themselves the task of reviving the Ennis Brass Band. The group included Bernard McAllister, Séan O'Shea, Jim Coleman, George Molony, Paschal Hanrahan, Tom McCabe and Jim McCabe. A feature of Ennis Brass Band is how family connection runs right through the core of its members. The McAllister family have had four generations playing over the past forty years. There are currently nine McAllisters still playing in the band, other families that have come through the band over the years: The Power's; The Coffey's; The McCabe's; The Glenny's; The Tierney's; The O'Connor's; The Creehan's; The McCabe's; The McDonagh's; The Hanley's; The O'Hanlon's; The O'Gorman's; The O'Sullivan's and The Cambell's.

Ennis Brass Band has done the town of Ennis and County Clare proud over the past forty years. They have played for important visitors: King Juan Carlos of Spain; President Charles de Gaulle; President Hillery and President McAleese. They have been part of significant civic and religious occasions but the most valued spectators continue to be the people of Ennis. Comhghairdeas to the member of Ennis Brass Band and to their conductor Kieran O'Connor for the enjoyment, the adding of solemnity of special occasions but above all for the generosity of their time and of their talent.

Sarah Power.



Missing the guest of honour ...

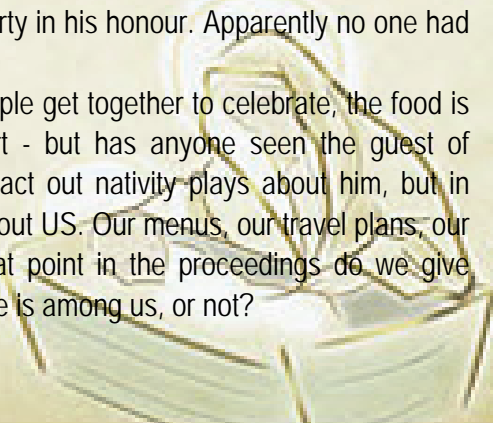
"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2)

There's a story that runs like this: there was a mayor of a small town who had brought in so many improvements to local life that over several years he had transformed the town. And so the community decided it was high time to pay him tribute.

The party was held at the local town hall, and all agreed it was a great celebration. The decorations were superb, the music was loud, the room crowded and noisy. The food was delicious, and the wine flowed. It was the best party the town had ever had.

Over coffee the next morning in the local cafe, someone wondered aloud if the mayor had enjoyed it. No one knew. In fact, as the day wore on, people began to realise that actually, no one had even seen the mayor there that night. Later they discovered that the mayor had been waiting at home all evening, waiting for the lift that he had been promised into town. But people were so busy preparing for the party, that no one had remembered him. And so he had missed the party in his honour. Apparently no one had even noticed his absence.

It sounds a lot like Christmas. People get together to celebrate, the food is great, the music warms the heart - but has anyone seen the guest of honour? We sing about him, we act out nativity plays about him, but in reality, the season has become about US. Our menus, our travel plans, our presents, our decorations. At what point in the proceedings do we give ourselves time to notice whether he is among us, or not?



Eucharistic Congress 2012



The **50th International Eucharistic Congress** will take place in Dublin in June from 10th to 17th 2012. The Eucharistic Congress are held every four years. The previous occasion it was hosted in Ireland was 1932 when attracted tens of thousands to the events.

Bookings for the Congress are now being taken. Single day registrations are available together with three and seven day registration, with special concessions for families. The final Mass of the Congress will take place in Croke Park on 17th June.

The cost of registration :

1 Day Attendance: €30

3 Day Attendance €60

7 Day Attendance €95

For accommodation, group bookings and all full programme of events please log on to: www.iec2012.ie



Lord Jesus,
You were sent by the Father
to gather together those who are scattered.
You came among us, doing good and bringing healing,
announcing the Word of salvation
and giving the Bread which lasts forever.
Be our companion on life's pilgrim way.
May your Holy Spirit inflame our hearts,
enliven our hope and open our minds,
so that together with our sisters and brothers in faith
we may recognise you in the Scriptures and in the
breaking of bread.
May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body
and lead us to walk humbly on the earth,
in justice and love,
as witnesses of your resurrection.
In communion with Mary,
whom you gave to us as our Mother at the foot of the
cross, through you
may all praise, honour and blessing be to the Father
in the Holy Spirit and in the Church,
Now and forever.

Amen



Cead Míle Fáilte



Sr. Betty Curtin

We welcome Sr. Betty Curtin to work on the Parish Team. Betty is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph. A native of Banteer in North Cork. Sister Betty has worked all of her Religious life outside of Ireland, in Australia and Peru. She is looking forward to getting to know people within the community of Ennis and is available to help and support. Contact numbers: Mobile 086-3715018/House 6868542

Mary, Queen of Ireland Muire Bainríogan Éireann



In his message to the Eucharistic Congress of 1932 Pope Pius XI invoked the Blessed Virgin Mary under the new and unique title of "Queen of Ireland". It was suggested that a picture of Mary under the title "Mary, Queen of Ireland" be commissioned.

The work was entrusted to Leo Whelan, R.H.A. the most eminent Catholic painter of the time. The painting captures Mary as mother, tenderly supporting the growing Christ Child. In the original painting Mr. Whelan caught the spirit of the traditional devotion of the Irish to Muire Máthair Dé (Mary, the Mother of God).



Message from the Poor Clare Community

The Awaiting we experience as Church in this Advent Season is neither empty nor futile. With each new lighted candle on the Advent wreath we see the time is fast approaching "when He who is to come... will come" Our hymns have been no less insistent – "When is He coming, when, Oh when is He coming, our Redeemer?"

We can't deny that so many good and unsuspecting people have experienced much darkness, hardship and disappointment in these recent times, with seemingly little respite ahead. But in that darkness long ago, the Saviour and Light of the world appeared and we know that that Light can never be extinguished. Herein lies our certainty - the coming of the Saviour was God's final "Yes" to all his promises, God is with us and wants to be with us!

Meister Eckhart encourages us to reflect: 'What good is it to me if the eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly but does not take place within myself?' Worshipping Him on bended knee does not make us small; it makes us great because it takes us eye to eye with God, who knows the needs of all our hearts.

It is our earnest and fervent wish that you know your needs and concerns find room in His Heart this Christmas and in the coming Year - as they do in the prayers of all your Poor Clare Sisters. May you know His Peace and be richly blessed during this Christmas Season.



Christmas Message for the Polish Community

Drodzy Bracia i Siostry zbliża się okres Świąt Bożego Narodzenia, szczególnie czas dla każdego chrześcijanina. Dlatego pragnę, z tej okazji, skierować najserdeczniejsze życzenia do wszystkich Rodaków, jak również do przyjaciół Irlandczyków.

Syn Boży przyjmując ludzką naturę narodził się z Maryi. Bóg stał się człowiekiem, aby jeszcze bardziej umiłować człowieka. Przyszedł na świat w betlejemskiej grocie, aby być bliżej ubogich, strapionych, cierpiących. W pokorze i zaufaniu powierzył się opiece Józefa i Maryi. Stał się światłością świata i wlał nową nadzieję w serca ludzkie. Niech ta nadzieja stanie się światłem – pośród niepokoju, siłą – w odważnym głoszeniu Chrystusa i mocą – w miłowaniu bliźnich

Pragnę Wam drodzy Bracia i Siostry życzyć Wesółych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia, aby Pan Jezus, przyniósł do waszych domów Nadzieję, Pokój i Miłość, aby zawsze towarzyszył wam w waszym codziennym życiu. Niech Chrystus Pan błogosławi Wam.

Ks. Tomasz Daukszewicz

Dear Brothers and Sisters Christmas Day is coming and it is a special time in the life of every Christian. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my Christmas wishes to all my dear compatriots living in Ireland as well as our Irish friends.

The Son of God assuming human nature, born of the Virgin Mary. God became human to show his love for man. He came to the world in the Bethlehem Crib to be closer to the poor, the sick and distressed. In humility and confidence Jesus was entrusted to the care of Joseph and Mary. He became the light of the world to put new hope in the hearts of men. This hope will become a light – in the midst of unrest, strength – in brave proclamation of Christ, and power – in loving our neighbours.

With all my heart I wish you Merry Christmas, so Jesus Christ will bring to your homes Hope, Peace and Love and that He will accompany you during the whole of your life.

Fr. Tomasz Daukszewicz



BULLETIN BOARD



Confirmation 2012



3rd March Holy Family
9th March Scoil Christ Rí
10th March CBS
23rd March Gaelscoil
24th March Ennis National

Parish Ceremonies for Christmas

Cathedral of SS Peter & Paul

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm – Children's Mass.
Christmas Eve: 9pm - Vigil Mass.
Christmas Eve: Midnight - Polish Community Mass.
Christmas Day: 9am; 10.30am & 12noon.
10.30am Children's Mass: Ennis National School.
Christmas Day: 3pm - Polish Community Mass.

St. Joseph's Church

Christmas Eve: 6pm – Children's Mass.
Christmas Eve: 7.30pm - Mass in Extraordinary Form
Christmas Eve: 9.30pm – Vigil Mass.
Christmas Day: 8am; 10am & 11.30am.

Cloughleigh Church

Christmas Eve: 9pm – Vigil Mass.
Christmas Day: 9.30am; 11am Family Mass.

Friary

Christmas Eve: 10pm - Carols beginning @ 9.30pm.
Christmas Day: 9.30am; 10.30am & 12noon.

Poor Clare Monastery

Christmas Day: 7.45am
No Evening Mass Christmas Day in Ennis



The Sacrament Of Reconciliation

The Cathedral
Confessions: 24th: 10.30am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm.

St. Joseph's
Confessions: 24th: 2pm - 4pm.

The Friary
Confessions: Thurs 22nd to Sat 24th:
 11am – 1pm; 2pm – 5.30pm;

Penitential Services

Cathedral: Monday 19th December at 7.30pm.
 (No evening Mass)

Friary: Tuesday 20th December 10.30am
 Wednesday 21st December 1.05pm.
 (instead of the usual 1.05pm Mass)
 No Confessions after Christmas until January 3rd.



Daily Masses Christmas Week

Cathedral:
 12noon & 7.30pm from Christmas until Tues Jan 3rd.

St. Joseph's:
 11am: from Christmas until Tuesday January 3rd.

Cloughleigh: 9.30am (weekdays).

Friary: 10am from Christmas until January 3rd.

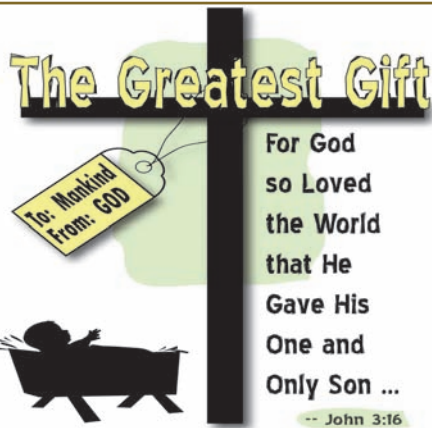
Poor Clare Monastery: 8.30am (weekdays).

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2012

Summer:
 June 26th to July 1st.
Autumn: Early October.
Contact:
 Fr. Tom Ryan at 061-364133.

Act Christmas

"It is easy to think
 Christmas,
 and it is easy to
 believe Christmas,
 but it is hard to act
 Christmas."



World Day of Prayer

for the Sick Thursday February 11th.
 Mass of Healing and Anointing in St. Joseph's at 11am.

Taizé Pilgrimage 2012

Sun 8th July to Tues 17th July - €460 all inclusive. **Contact:** Fr. Jerry Carey @ 086 2508444.



Taizé Prayer on 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Church of Our Lady, Roslevan (Fahy Hall).

Lent & Easter

Ash Wednesday 22nd February 2012
Easter Sunday 8th April 2012

First Holy Communion 2012



21st April Ennis National
12th May Scoil Christ Rí
12th May Gaelscoil
19th May CBS
19th May Holy Family

Ecumenical

Carol Service

Sunday 18th December
7pm in Friary, with
Combined Parish Choirs.

Parish Statistics 2011

Baptisms:	304
Weddings:	51
Confirmations:	138
Deaths:	126



Pray out the Old Year

Pray in the New Year

Cathedral
31st December @
11.30pm.

SAMARITANS

People can contact the Samaritans by phoning 1850 60 90 90, email jo@samaritans.org, write to Pat or Mary, Samaritans, Sunville, Kilrush Road, Ennis.