



Ceremony of Farewell to 2011
On Saturday 31st December at 4pm
in St. Mary's Church of Ireland
Church, Crumlin Village.

Our Parishioners and friends are invited to join us for a Service of Farewell to mark the end of the Old Year and ask God's Blessing as the New Year approaches. Refreshments afterwards in St. Mary's Church of Ireland Parish Centre. All welcome

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Priests of the Parish and our Parish Pastoral Worker join in wishing you and your family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and every blessing in the New Year of 2012. The priests of the Parish will offer their Christmas Day Masses for you and your loved ones living and dead.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our Parish Church and especially welcome those home from abroad to join their families and to all who have come to live in Ireland and cannot be in their homeland and among their families this Christmas.

Mass Times for Christmas and Beyond.

St. Stephens Day: 10am : 11am only
Weekday Masses: 10am and 11am only
until Tuesday 3rd January, when our new weekday Mass schedule begins, with Mass at 9am : 10am and 7pm.

Parish Office

opening hours over Christmas & New Year.

The Parish Office will open on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th from 10.30am to 12 noon only. Normal Parish Office hours will resume on Tuesday 3rd January

Message for the Housebound.

Our thoughts are with you at this time of year. We hope you are having a good Christmas. If anyone is confined to home and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office in the New Year and someone will call.

ST AGNES' PARISH
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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CRUMLIN, MOURNE ROAD.

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Priests of the Parish

Fr. Paul Tyrell Ph. 4555368
Fr. Peter Coffey Ph. 4650707
Fr. Michael Kelly Ph. 4542308
Fr. John Deasy Ph. 4550955
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Thought for the Week

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" - Gospel of John 1:14

A Crib and a Shelter.

In the old city of Salvador, Brazil's first capital, there is a small square. It contains several churches, a branch of the university, a small grassy area with a few trees and some stone benches. The covered entrances of this and the other churches in the area, and the stone benches, make this a favourite area for the street children of Salvador who spread their cardboard and sleep there at night.

In this area, in the days before Christmas, a tradition grew up of creating the House of Jesus. The children created a cardboard shelter, built with some spare piece of wood, around a tree in the square in the form of a tent. It was painted inside and outside with Christmas motifs and messages: 'Peace on Earth', 'Merry Christmas', 'The House of Jesus' etc. The children made Christmas bells out of plastic cups salvaged from the garbage of the nearby snack counters. Washed and painted in bright colours, they were suspended from the branches of the tree and the clapper of each bell was a flower.

Then one year, the university, on the other side of the square, made a crib. It was an elaborate affair with life-size papier mache figures, dressed in real clothes and shoes. It had plants and trees, glass balls and garlands and was lit up with a host of tiny electric lights. But it was a crib set up behind bars, a crib to be looked at from afar.

On the opposite side of the square, the children had created a house for Jesus. All day long, boys and girls, some shirtless, many barefoot, went in and out of the House of Jesus. Flowers brightened the interior and many candles illuminated faces and smiles.

There was so much life and activity around the little shelter. It never stopped even on Christmas Day when the centre of the city was quite deserted. The children never stopped making bells, cutting out cardboard stars. They played inside, told stories, sang and danced and shared whatever food and sweets they had managed to collect during the day. And at night they sang and prayed together.

On the other side of the square the elaborate crib remained deserted. The children in the cardboard shelter shared food and prayer and life and joy in memory of a child who chose to be born poor among the poor.

Sr. Margaret.

There is a Santa Claus.

When was asked recently to write a letter to my granddaughter as if from Father Christmas, I was reminded of the old atheist jibe that belief in God is like belief in Santa Claus-it disappears as you grow up. I think a better analysis is that Santa is real: a mum or dad, a grandma or granddad, a foster parent or a person who wishes to be generous but remains anonymous. The presents and pleasure brought are real enough. As children grow up, their idea of Santa changes and deepens.

Taken from 'The Tablet' Magazine.

Christmas Carols

Please Join with us in Singing Our Carols this Christmas and New Year

1. Adeste Fideles

1. Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes, Venite, venite in Bethlehem. Natum videte, regem angelorum, Venite adoremus, venete adoremus, venete adoremus dominum.

2. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Gestant puellae viscera. Deum verum, genitum non factum, Venite adoremus, venete adoremus, venete adoremus dominum.

2. Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head, the star in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes, I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

3. While Shepherds Watched

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around

2. "Fear not", said he, for mighty dread, Had seized their troubled mind. "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind"

3. "All glory be to God on high, and on the earth be peace; Good will henceforth from heaven to men, begin and never cease.



Candle Care

Just a little reminder to take care when lighting candles. They carry with them a warning of danger. Particularly, would you please supervise children. Our shrines are ablaze with candles on Christmas Day. We would not like you to be ablaze as well !! These rules should also apply when at home, especially at this time of year



4. Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle a stall; With the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

5. Silent Night

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin, mother and child; Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light, Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

6. Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo still their joyous strains

Refrain: Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your rapturous strain prolong? Say what may your tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song. *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ our Lord the new born king. *Refrain*

4. See within a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of Heaven and earth. Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. *Refrain*

7. The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

2. They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*

8. O Come All ye Faithful

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him born the King of Angels.

Refrain: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above, Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain.*

3. Now Lord, we greet you, born this happy morning, Jesus to you be glory given, word of the Father now in flesh appearing. *Refrain.*

9. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new born king, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled; Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies, with angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King.

2. Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb; veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain.

The Parish Newsletter & WebSite Team would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. We hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter or visiting the WebSite, and we welcome any comments you have. Don't forget, if there is anything you would like to see as a regular item, please let us know through the Parish Office or email us at crumlinparish@eircom.net.

