



ST AGNES' PARISH CHRISTMAS DAY NEWSLETTER

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Priests of the Parish

Fr. J. Deasy P.P. Ph. 4550955
Fr. J. Foster Ph. 4650714
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Fr. P. Brewster Ph. 4650716



Christmas Carols



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

Recently Deceased

Kathleen Dowling, Raphoe Rd.
Attracta Bennett, Cherryfield Ave.

We express our deepest sympathies to
their families at this time.

May They Rest in Peace. Amen.

We wish to thank our Parishioners for their kindness and generous support for all the collections during the past year

Thought for the Week

"The Birthday of Christ is the Birthday of Peace
Pope Leo the Great

Bethlehem: A Vanishing Christian Community

Once a bustling cultural and spiritual centre hosting tourists and pilgrims from around the world, Bethlehem has become an isolated town, with boarded up shops and abandoned development projects. The age old link between Bethlehem and Jerusalem—its spiritual, cultural and economic lifeline—has effectively been severed as a result of the erection of the separation wall and the expansion of illegal settlements on land acquired by coercion. Furthermore, since July of this year the main crossing between Jerusalem and Bethlehem is now closed to Palestinians who live in East Jerusalem. A simple journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, only 14 kilometres [less than 10 miles] apart, can now take an entire day. The person makes their way to the northern opening in the eight-metre [25 feet] high concrete wall that surrounds this historic city. The wall cuts some four to five kilometres [2-3 miles] into the West Bank, far from the internationally recognised Green Line that delineates the border between Israel and the West Bank.

"Bethlehem, the city of peace, is a big prison. People living inside have the restricted possibilities and the psychology of prisoners....It is easier to come from Ireland to Jerusalem than for Palestinians from Bethlehem to come to Jerusalem" [Patriarch Michel Sabah]

Difficult as it is to comprehend this restriction of movement which makes it extremely difficult for Palestinian Christians from East Jerusalem to pray at the Church of the Nativity, the situation for Christians in Bethlehem to attend Sunday Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem is even more difficult. No Bethlehem resident is allowed to visit Jerusalem without special permission from the Israeli army.

In effect, the communities of Bethlehem and East Jerusalem which are intimately connected through family, work, education and religion are forced to live divided by a 25foot wall that surrounds Bethlehem on three sides— unable to visit their friends and families, or go to their universities or places of worship. Although the restrictions are in part designed to provide security for the Israeli population of Jerusalem they nevertheless are in clear breach of Article 12 of the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which obliges Israel to ensure access to Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy places that are under its control.

The emigration is particularly marked among Bethlehem's Christian communities. Not so long ago the Christians in Bethlehem made up over 70% of the total population. The most recent statistics put the figure at 30%. Since the year 2000 alone, more than 400 Christian families have left the area. This development means that the birth place of Jesus, home to the oldest Christian Church and the oldest Christian communities in the world, will have nothing left of its history other than the cold stones of empty churches within a few generations.

CEREMONY OF FAREWELL

On Sunday 31st December at 4pm in St Agnes's Church, we invite our Parishioners and friends to join us for a Service of Farewell for the Old Year and to ask God's Blessing as the New Year approaches. Refreshments in the Parish Centre Afterwards. All are welcome to come and join us.

Parish Centre.

All activities cease until Tuesday 2nd
January 2007.

The Coffee Dock will reopen on that day.
You are always welcome to come along and
enjoy a Cuppa between 10am and 12noon,
Monday to Friday. Bring Your friends

Mass Times for Christmas Week.

St. Stephen's Day(Tues): 10am & 11am

Remainder of the Week: 9am & 10am only.

From Tuesday 2nd January, Masses will be at
the usual times of 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am
and 7:00pm.

Parish Office.

The Office will close on Friday 22nd
December and will open again on Thursday
and Friday 28th and 29th December
From 10am—12 noon

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Priests of the Parish join in wishing you and your family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, and every blessing in the New Year of 2007. 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

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.

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 was 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.**



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 !!

The St Agnes' Parish Newsletter & Web-Site 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 Web-Site, and we welcome any comments you have. Don't forget, if there was anything you would like to see as a regular item, please let us know through the Parish Office or email us @ crumlinparish@eircom.net.