



KILKEE Parish Newsletter

CHRISTMAS - 24th / 25th December 2010

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A Christmas Message

May the Peace of Christmas be with you and yours today and tonight!

For many people this past year may have been tinged with sadness - especially with the passing of dear ones. Some have had to face a difficult year struggling with the downturn in our economy and its impact on them. Upset, illness, worry and difficulty may have touched yourself or those you know and love in recent times.



The message of our Christian faith at this Christmas time is one word - "EMMANUEL" - *God is with us!* In the midst of all that happens to us may these words be our beacon and our hope.

Our thanks to all who help this parish to reflect God's presence with us on our journey throughout the year -

- The many people who pray each day in their homes and at church.
- Our readers, servers, Eucharistic ministers, sacristans, collectors, counters, play and pray leaders, all who help decorate and attend to the needs of our Church celebrations right throughout the year.
- Our Choir, Folk Groups, musicians and Choir directors who enhance our celebrations and reflect the God story through their music and singing.
- Those who serve and work in our schools as Board of Management members, teachers and staff to help our young people develop and appreciate the gifts and talents they have been given by God.
- Those who are involved in our various parish leadership groups and organisations in a voluntary capacity and give of their time to the planning and assistance of parish needs.
- All who are involved in giving service to others through various organisations and sporting bodies.



May the Peace of Christmas be with you and yours today and tonight!

EMMANUEL - God is with us!

Fr. Gerry Kenny,

Fr. Joe Haugh

A Table Blessing for the Christmas Meal:



God of every nation and people,
your Word - made - flesh is
"a child born for us, a Son given to us".
Bless us as we share our Christmas meal,
Be good to all who have been good to us,
Be close to those who are absent today
And allow all your people
to share the gifts of your goodness.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Some Children See Him
By Alfred Burt



Some children see Him lily white
the infant Jesus born this night
Some children see Him lily white
with tresses soft and fair

Some children see Him bronzed and brown
the Lord of heav'n to earth come down
Some children see Him bronzed and brown
with dark and heavy hair (with dark and heavy hair!)

Some children see Him almond-eyed
This Saviour whom we kneel beside
Some children see Him almond-eyed
With skin of yellow hue!

Some children see Him dark as they
Sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray
Some children see Him dark as they
And, ah! they love Him so!

The children in each different place
Will see the Baby Jesus' face
Like theirs but bright with heav'nly grace
And filled with holy light!

O lay aside each earthly thing
and with thy heart as offering
Come worship now the infant King
'tis love that's born tonight!

'tis love that's born tonight!

BEANNACTAÍ NA NOLLAG!

*Feliz Navidad,
Song Thanol Chuck Ha
Hamnida,
Bade Din Ki Bohot Bohot
Mabarakbaat,
Noel Heureux,
Gluckliches Weihnachten,
Natale Felice,
Wexolych Swiat Bozego
Narodzenia,
Priecigus Ziemassvetkus,
Malgayang Basko,*



Blessing of Children and Babies

On next weekend - 1st & 2nd January - at all the Weekend Masses in our parish there will be a special blessing for those born in the past year and all our children.



A Time of Celebration

"As human beings we have in irresistible, healthy and God-given need to make festival, to have un-ordinary time, to have carnival. Christmas is Sabbath, sabbatical, in the true biblical sense - and also the only sabbatical most of us will ever get! There are seasons in life, and these should be regular, meant solely for enjoyment, for colour, for tinsel. There is even the occasional time for a bit of excess. Jesus voiced that when his followers objected to a woman's excess in anointing him. All cultures, whether poor or rich, have always had times of festival where, spoken or unspoken, they took seriously the word: The poor you will always have with you, but today it is time to celebrate! Christmas is this time.

John Shea, in his marvellous little book of Christmas, tells the story of a family who decided one year to have an alternative Christmas. They did not put up a tree, string any lights, play any carols, or exchange any gifts. They met for a simple, quiet meal on Christmas day. Asked by friends how it went, one member of the family replied, "It was pleasant." Another member, perhaps speaking more honestly, said, "It was an existential abyss." There is a God-given press within human nature that pushes us to celebrate, and this is a healthy pressure. It keeps us aware that we are not meant for gloom but that we are destined for more, much more, than our poor lives can give us just now. The excess of carnival, of festival, of Christmas, teaches us this lesson."

- Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI.

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E	CHRISTMAS TREE	ADVENT
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S	DECORATIONS	CAROLS
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N	HOLLY	ANGEL
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E	REINDEER	CRIB
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C	TINSEL	HOLY
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N	MANGER	NOEL
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I	BABY	MARY
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K	JOSEPH	BALTHAZAR
L	A	B	T	S	D	M	R	U	H	T	O	N	JESUS	MELCHIOR
A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A	SHEPHERD	CASPAR
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	KINGS	GOLD
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F	STAR	FRANKINCENSE
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G	STABLE	MYRRH
													SANTA CLAUS	



