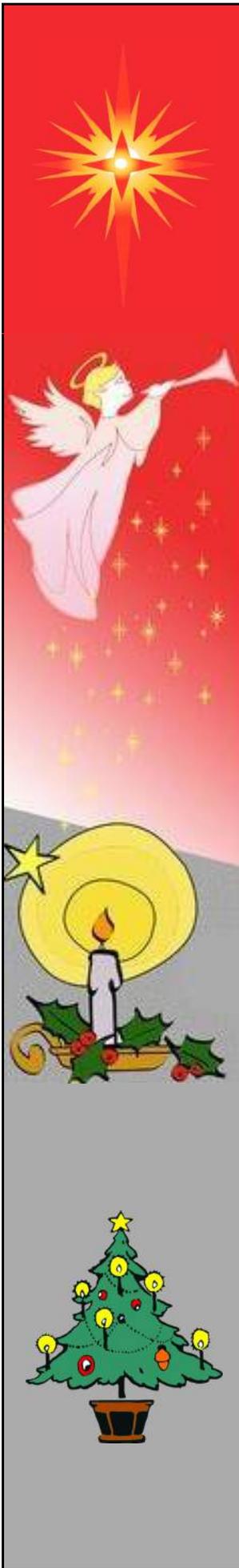


*St. Matthew's
Ballyfermot*



*Wishing you a Happy,
Peaceful Christmas
and a Blessed New Year*





Come All Ye Faithful

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:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!

Adeste Fideles
 Laeti triumphantes
 Venite, Venite in Bethlehem
 Natum videte, Regem Angelorum;
 Venite adoremus,
 venite adoremus,
 venite adoremus, Dominum!

Silent Night

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.

Silent night, Holy night,
 Shepherds quake at the sight:
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia:
 Christ the Saviour is born,
 Christ the Saviour is born

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
 no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus
 Laid down his sweet head;
 The stars, in the bright sky
 looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus
 asleep on the hay.

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.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply
 Echo still their joyous strains:
 Glor...ri-a in excelsis Deo!
 Glor...ri-a in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come adore on bended knee
 Christ, the Lord,
 the newborn King.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild
 God and sinners, reconciled"
 Joyful, all ye nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim:
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heaven adored,
 Christ the everlasting Lord,
 Late in time behold Him come,
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
 Hail the incarnate Deity!
 Pleased as man with man to
 dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

The First Noel

The First Noel, the angels 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.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!



Rumblings from the Bunker



SANTA SHOCK !!

In a way I should not really be calling it a shock because I should have seen it coming. I mean to be honest I was a little bit suspicious something like this was going on behind the scenes. The other problem with this is you may be reading this on Christmas morning and I am not sure how suitable it is given the day that it is. Now having said that even though I have called it Santa Shock it's not really about Santa at all. Actually it's probably better called Christmas Shock. Oh I don't know does that sound worse.... I mean who wants a Christmas shock.. Christmas surprise... yes, but not shock. I should say it's nothing to worry about....I mean nobody is sick, it's not bad news....at least not in the ordinary sense...

Let me explain. This is how it started. I was in getting my haircut and Andy was talking away telling me about some movie, but I could not help overhearing two women who were sitting reading magazines. One said ' I'm at the stage where I hate Christmas, such a big fuss, and for what?' Her friend answered ' I know and it's all about money , oh I wish it was over!' Well I was interested in what Andy was saying but I felt I had been kicked in the stomach. Did she really say she hated Christmas? And as for wishing it was over? As I say I think that was the start of it. A few days after that I was in the Full Stop Cafe and I heard a few people at the table next to me putting forward the well worn argument that the whole ' Christmas thing' was just for kids. Now believe it or not, and it does not happen often, I could hardly finish my sausage and bacon. Such a thing to say!

I can understand there are reasons why some people may not be looking forward to Christmas and indeed why some people may not enjoy it. It is hard to enjoy something when you, or indeed someone close to you, is sick. It is hard to enjoy Christmas when you are missing a loved one. Maybe we need to think about the words we use about Christmas. For the reasons I have just mentioned, and others, we may well not be up for much fun or be in form for a party but all of us, including, no actually especially, the sad, the sick and the lonely, as followers of Jesus, are called to celebrate Christmas. I will come back to this next week, I have just remembered I still haven't told you about the shock.

As I said I should have seen it coming, and the conversations I overheard really were a very clear warning, but I think I can be a bit naive at times. Now please make sure you are sitting down for this and maybe a good strong cup of tea beside you. Here's the shock. I met a man the other day who quite bluntly told me he did not believe in Santa. Now when he said it first I thought he was joking. Then he said it again. What was worse was his wife and her sister were with him, and they seemed really lovely, and I thought I was hearing things but they agreed with him. They too, almost laughing, like you would nearly think they were proud of the fact, that they do not believe in Santa!! To my absolute amazement I discovered over the next few days there are loads of people walking about, and whilst with some you might suspect it, with many you would never think that they are carrying the dark secret of disbelief. They are closet Santa Doubters!! This revelation has had such an impact on me that I am not fully recovered, but I realise that I need to address this here in the 'Rumblings'.

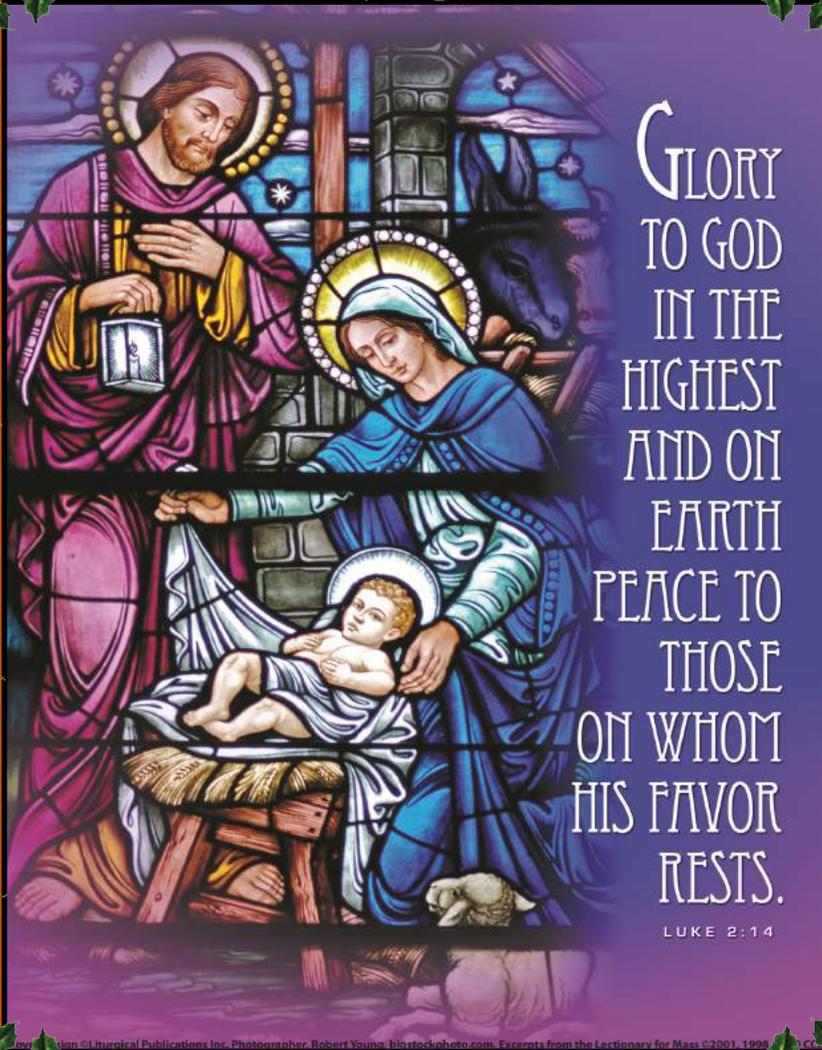
When I was a child I absolutely adored Christmas. My parents made the crib a real focus. We even had a bit of fun with it, with the Wise Men travelling over the pelmet on the far side of the room gradually making it across the top of the television to the crib in time for 6th January. It was a time of real awe and Santa was really brilliant to us. I remember those fire engines that we got one year. I remember books and paints. I remember my six-shooter and my U.S. Marshal's badge. I will never forget the train set, nothing very exotic but beautiful. I think our Dad, after his years on the old steam trains of the Great Northern Railways, got as much, and maybe more pleasure out of that train-set. Dad brought us on a tour of the cribs all over Belfast, on these lazy cold crisp days of the New Year. Later I learned in school about the origin of Silent Night. Later again I learned how the soldiers on both sides in the war had climbed out of the trenches to sing it.

What about now? What about Christmas now? Well I pray for snow? And I sing Christmas carols and mad Christmas songs constantly. I adore mince pies. I prefer the brown of the turkey and I love the ham. And I'm crazy about peas. I love Christmas in the Church. Adeste Fideles and Silent Night are my favourites. And Santa? Of course I believe in Santa. I know Santa comes. I never open a present before Christmas morning. I know he slips in quietly in the deep of Christmas Eve night. St. Nicholas. Spirit of Christmas and blesses my presents with the Presence of Jesus. The presents I will take the Christmas paper off I do look forward to, but I delight in his Presence at Christmas, presence of love, joy and peace. This is my prayer for each one of you.

Delight in his Presence. Happy Christmas!! xxx

J. Mc Donald





GLORY
TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
AND ON
EARTH
PEACE TO
THOSE
ON WHOM
HIS FAVOR
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14



*The Staff, Students
and Boards of Management of
Paritas College
St. John's
Mary Queen of Angels
St. Louise De Merillac*

*would like to wish all in St Matthews
a very Happy Christmas*



Book of the Week
O COME LET US ADORE
Exploring the Crib at Christmas
Christopher Hayden
Veritas 2010 Dublin pp112

A really beautiful little book to companion us over Christmas and into the New Year. The author is steeped in Scripture and helps us look at the Crib in a really fresh way. This book will feed your faith.

FAITH MOMENT



In sending his only Son, Christ Jesus, into the world, God's saving plan of redemption was revealed to humanity.



Christmas Story Drama

Please note children who want to take part in the drama of the Christmas story at the Family Mass on Christmas Eve should be in the Church at 4.45pm at the latest.
Pizza and (mince!!)pie

Gospel Readings for the Week

MON 26/12 **MT. 10:17-22**

Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr
The Holy Spirit will speak in you

TUE 27/12 **JN. 20:2-8**

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
The one Jesus loved

WED 28/12 **MT. 2:13-18**

Feast of the Holy Innocents
Rachel wept

THU 29/12 **LK. 2:22-35**

He took him into his arms and blessed God

FRI 30/12 **MT. 2:13-15,19-23**

Feast of the Holy Family

SAT 31/12 **JN. 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word

Christmas Eve

Family Mass 5.30pm
Night Mass 10.00pm



Christmas Day

9.00 — 9.45 Convent Mass
10.30 **Cór Naomh Bríd**
12.00

Week after Christmas

Monday to Friday

Morning Mass at 10.00am

**No Evening Mass
on Tuesday**



**Eucharistic Adoration
And Divine Mercy
Meetings**

Resume from
Friday 6 January



Mass Times

New Year's Eve

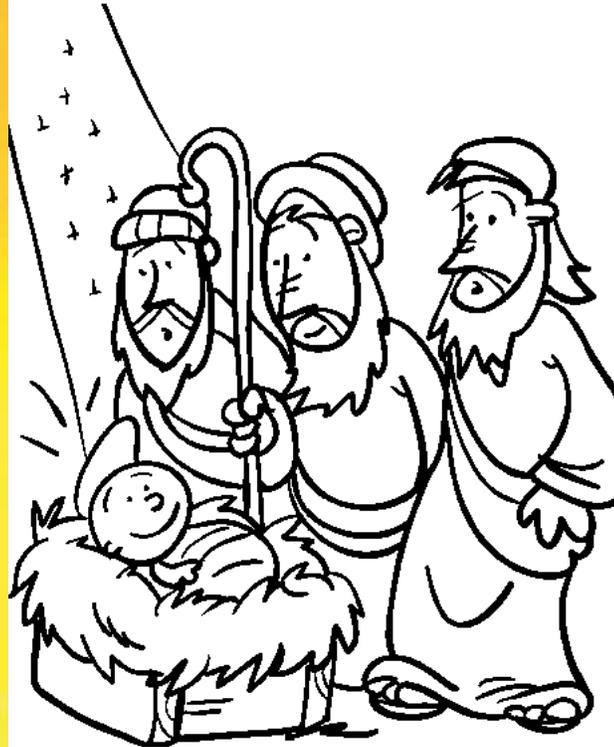
6.30pm Vigil Mass
11.30pm Special Mass
for New Year

Sunday Jan 1

9.00, 10.30, 12.00



 Read the Gospel and Color

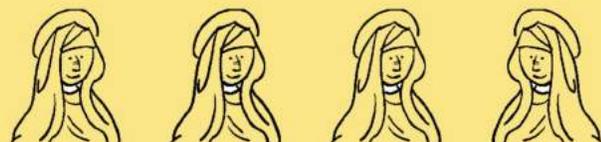
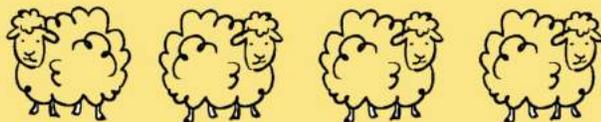


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 Puzzle

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way.
Then color in all the pictures.



CLPI

Sharing the Gospel

The angels shared the good news about Jesus so people could worship him, too. Maybe it was the way they glowed when they sang about Jesus. Maybe it was the words or the tune of their songs. After the angels left, those shepherds were curious enough to stop what they were doing and look for Jesus themselves. When they found him, they were thrilled. Everything the angels told them was true.

Prayer

God, I am thankful that the angels and the shepherds spread the good news about Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of yourself telling a friend about how wonderful Jesus is.

Mission for the Week

Ask your parents to light candles and join you in singing songs about Jesus.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

SATURDAY:
31 DECEMBER 2016
SPECIAL MASS

@ 11.30PM

CELEBRATE

THE

NEW YEAR

IN THE

COMPANY

OF JESUS