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**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
TO CHILDREN**

Dear Boys and Girls,

I welcome you with great joy. We are now close to the great Feast of Holy Christmas, a Feast eagerly awaited, especially by you children. I offer each one of you my affectionate greeting, together with my warm thanks for the sentiments and prayers you expressed to me on behalf of your friends.

I am pleased that you just mentioned Antonia Meo, a little girl known as "Nennolina". Exactly three days ago, I decreed the recognition of her heroic virtues and I hope that her cause for beatification will soon be successfully concluded. What a shining example this little peer of yours left us! In her very short life—only six and a half years—Nennolina, a Roman child, showed special faith, hope and charity, and likewise the other Christian virtues. Although she was a frail little girl, she managed to give a strong and vigorous Gospel witness and left a deep mark on the diocesan Community of Rome. Therefore, you can consider her a friend of yours, a model to inspire you. Her life, so simple and at the same time so important, shows that holiness is for all ages: for children and for young people, for adults and for the elderly. Every season of our life can be a good time for deciding to love Jesus seriously and to follow him faithfully. In just a few years, Nennolina reached the peak of Christian perfection that we are all called to scale; she sped down the "highway" that leads to Jesus. Indeed, as you yourselves said, Jesus is the true "road" that leads us to the Father and to his and our definitive home, which is Paradise. You know that Antonia now lives in God and is close to you from Heaven: you feel her present among you, in your groups. Learn to know her and follow her example. I think she would be pleased with this: with still being "involved" in Catholic Action!

It is Christmas and I want to offer you fervent good wishes of joy and serenity, but with these good wishes allow me to express another for the whole year that we will shortly be beginning. I do so inspired by your *slogan*: may you always walk joyfully on the road of life with Jesus.



One day he said: "I am the way" (Jn 14:6). Jesus is the way that leads to true life, life that never ends. It is often a narrow, uphill road, but if we let ourselves be attracted by him it is always marvellous, like a steep mountain path: the more steeply it rises, the better one can admire from on high new views even more beautiful and extensive. There is the effort of walking but we are not alone: we help each other, we wait for one another, we lend a hand to those who have been left behind

The important thing is not to get lost, not to stray from the path, otherwise we risk ending in a ravine, of getting lost in the woods! Dear children, God became man to show us the way; indeed, by making himself a child he also became the "way" for you children; he was like you, he was your age. Follow him lovingly every day, keeping your hand in his. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord:
Jimmy McConnon, Clusnabraden, **Brian Kelly**, Enniskeen, **Jimmie Dolan**, Clonmellon.

Congratulations to **Joe Cunningham**, Dublin Road and **Edel King**, Louth Village on their recent marriage.

Reborn through water and the Holy Spirit:
Laila Annie McKenna, Leiter, **Senan McCormack**, Cornakill.

Baptisms: All Baptisms are booked and registered at the Baptismal preparation meeting. *Next Baptismal preparation meeting takes place in the Parish Centre Thursday, 6th January, at 8 p.m.*

Please let **Fr. Gerry** know if a family member residing in the parish or a neighbour is in hospital. They might appreciate a visit.

Fr. Gerry will visit the sick and housebound on Wednesday next, 22nd December.

No Adoration on Tuesday next, 21st December, or Tuesday, 4th January. Adoration will resume on 11th January, 2011.

Christmas Day is an **Offering Day** for the support of your priests.

This Week's Collections:
Plate: €1,496. Envelopes: €2,732.
Many thanks to all.

LITURGICAL NOTES

18th/19th December.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Kevin McArdle, Annagh.
Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.: Kathleen Carolan & son, Tom.
Corlea 9 a.m.: Bridie Kennedy, Drumiller.
9 a.m. in Kingscourt: Polish Mass. (Note change.)
10.30: Stephen Malone, Drumgill.
12.00: Josie Markey. Month's Memory.

25th/26th December

All Christmas Day Masses are for the People of the Parish.

Sunday, St. Stephen's Day:
Corlea 9.00: Peter & Eileen Duffy, Tullybrick.
10.30: James Proudfoot, Mullaghboy.
12.00: Eileen O'Connell. Month's Memory.

Tuesday 10: Patrick & Mary Anne & P.F. Brady.
Wednesday 10: Philip McDaniel, Bailieboro Road.

Thursday 10: Joe Clarke, Junior, Ard Dún.
Friday: No Morning Mass.

We welcome all families to join in the festival fun of our first **Concert of Carols** in Kingscourt Church tonight at 7 p.m., including all the choirs, musicians and St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band.

All are welcome to join in our **Parish Penitential Service** on Tuesday night at 8 p.m. A number of visiting priests will be in attendance. Please use this opportunity to come and be reconciled with the Lord this Christmas.

On this fourth Sunday in Advent as we prepare to celebrate Christmas **Trócaire** is asking us to bring light to northern Uganda by buying a solar-powered lamp to help children study after dark and improve their chances of a better future.
www.trocaire.org/globalgift

A word of very sincere thanks to all the boys and girls from our parish who kindly donated non perishable goods for the St Vincent de Paul.

CHRISTMAS MASSES
The following are the times of Masses in our Parish:

Christmas Eve: 6 p.m.: Family Christmas Mass in Kingscourt..

7.30 p.m.: Christmas Mass in Muff.

9 p.m.: Candlelight Christmas Night Mass.

Christmas Day:

9.00: Christmas Day Mass in Corlea.

10.30 a.m. & 12 noon: Christmas Day Mass in Kingscourt.

All of the Masses at Christmas are offered for the intentions of all families and parishioners in our Parish.

*May the birth of Jesus dispel all darkness.
May the compassion of Jesus embrace all hearts.
May the peace of Jesus inspire all minds,
May the presence of Jesus fill the earth,
And may the promise of God be fulfilled,
God in us and with us, now and forever. Amen.*



St. Stephen's Day:
9 a.m. Sunday Mass in Corlea.
10.30 a.m. & 12 noon Sunday Mass in Kingscourt.

A special word of thanks to **Stephen McElroy, Fiona Burke, Pat Sherlock** and **Majella Kelly** who have been working on the **parish website** over recent months. The website will be continually updated with happenings etc. in the parish. It is a very important contact with all parishioners. Please view the website at www.kingscourtparish.ie

Muff Readers List for 2011 is being compiled. Those interested please give names to Alacoque McMahon.

Muff Altar Society List for 2011 is being compiled. Those interested please give names to Mary Carolan.

JUST A THOUGHT

The Work of Christmas (Howard Thurman)

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes have returned home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

Then the real work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner,

To teach the nations, To bring Christ to all,

To make music in the heart.

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Social Services Christmas Party Cabra Castle Sunday, 9th Jan., 2011 2 p.m. Book at "The Well" by 4th Jan.

Reminder from Kingscourt Chamber of Commerce that **Town Vouchers** to encourage shopping locally are available for €50, €20 and €10 from Super Valu, Church St. Café, The Well, Centra and Callan's Pharmacy.

Grow: Young adults 18-35 group meeting in Catherine McAuley Centre, Kells, on each Thursday at 7.30p.m. Further information from 1890 474474.

A.A. Meetings take place in St. Mary's Hall on Thursdays at 8.30 p.m. Phone 0290434848.

A.A. General Service Office at 01/8420700 or email gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Stars Lotto Result: 01, 04, 07, 26. No winner. Next jackpot €6,000.