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A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

Christmas is, above all, a family feast and while our thoughts are still centred on Bethlehem and the Holy Family, the readings of this liturgy deal with various aspects of family life. Speaking about the Holy Family may be somewhat off-putting as our own home may be a far cry from this living ideal. Let us not forget that Mary and Joseph, like any other parents, had their problems and difficulties to face. The shadow of the cross was already beginning to form over the crib at Bethlehem when they heard Simeon's chill prophecy, that the Child Jesus was destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel and that Mary's own soul would be pierced with a sword. From the very beginning, the child they loved and cherished was a mystery to Mary and Joseph and as he grew up under their protection all they could do was to place their trust in God. We must do the same. The family is as old as humankind and has survived because it is built on the strong foundation of love. We may not be able to change many things in the world but our influence does extend over our own homes and our own family. Like any other worthwhile project, family life, to be successful, has to be given time and energy to develop. It does not happen automatically. Love, harmony and mutual respect, which are the basic ingredients of a happy family, have to be witnessed in action. Example teaches best. Attitudes of living and caring, which are encouraged in the earliest days, have a deep and lasting influence. Children become, in later life, what their homes have made them, and when they have learned to give as well as receive, they develop a growing awareness of the needs of others.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord

Sheila McCabe, Main St.

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.

Please note there are NO Vigil Masses.

WISHING ALL PARISHIONERS A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

LE GACH DEA GHUI I GCOIR NO NOLLAG AGUS NA HATHA BLIANA.

WSZYTKIM POLAKOM ZYCZYMY WESOTYCH SWIAT BOZEGO NARODZENIA

ORAZ SZCZEZLIMEGO, SPOKOYNIEGO NOWEGO ROKE



**MAKE TIME AT HOME FOR PRAYER THIS CHRISTMAS
BLESS MY FAMILY**

I ask you to bestow a blessing
on my family this Christmas.

Bless each and every one of them.

Keep them in your love,
and keep them from harm.

Bless all our loved ones departed, too!

Those we miss so much!

May they know your peace.

May your peace reign in all our hearts

so that your love may always be
at the heart of our family. **Amen.**

A special **Mass for Peace** takes place at 11 a.m. in Kingscourt on Saturday, 1st January, 2011. All are welcome to attend.

Congratulations on their marriage to **Cathal O'Rourke**, Dublin Rd. and **Jennifer Carmody**, Ballinteer, to **Michael Lynch**, Bracklin, and **Sharmaine Morales**.

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

**This Week's Collections: Plate: €1,268.
Envelopes: €2,157. Many thanks to all.**

LITURGICAL NOTES

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.

1st/2nd January.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Kitty & Benny Curtis.
Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.:
Corlea 9 a.m.: Gene & Margaret Marron.
10.30 a.m.: Jack, Mary & Stephen Malone, Drumgill.
12.00: Thomas Wakely, Turner's Hill.

Tuesday 10: John Smith & dec. parents & brothers, Rathgillen.

Wednesday 10: John & Mary McGrane.

Thursday 10: Tommy Rice, Cormey. Month's Mem.

Friday 10: Morning Mass.

Saturday 11 a.m. First Mass of 2011.

A Blessing for the Christmas Tree in the Home:

This blessing can be prayed on the day that the family puts up the Christmas tree. One the lights are ready to be switched on, the prayer can begin.

All make the Sign of the Cross

A member of the family turns the lights of the tree on and the blessing is then recited:

Lord our God,

We praise you for the light of creation:

The sun, the moon and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:

The Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:

He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,

Who fills us with the wonder of your love.



Lord God,

Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives us be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



We encourage families to place a light of welcome in your window this Christmas to welcome the Christ Child.

A warm word of thanks to **Shekletons** who have kindly sponsored our Christmas tree this year.

A word of thanks and congratulations to all our musicians, choirs, youth group and St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band for making the first parish **Concert of Carols** a success. A special word of thanks to Derek Eakin for co-ordinating the event. Thanks to all who travelled in such poor weather conditions and for the generous retiring collection which realised €1,007 for the local **St. Vincent de Paul**.

All children baptised during 2010 are cordially invited by the Parish Baptismal Team to join with the parish community at a special Mass of Thanksgiving with their parents and families at **12 noon on Sunday, 2nd January**.

Trócaire has expressed sincere thanks to everyone in the parish and throughout the diocese for their support in 2010—not just during their Christmas Global Gift campaign but during Lent and following the recent disasters in Haiti and Pakistan. Trócaire wishes you and your families a happy and peaceful new year.

During the early months of 2009 an initial survey of **Kingscourt Church** was carried out. After study and discussion a further and much more detailed report was undertaken in autumn 2010. Following the results of this report, in consultation with the Diocesan authorities and with their approval, a design team was appointed to begin the preliminary preparation of detailed plans. **This team is headed by local architect and parish-ioner, Niall Smith.** The necessary permission for this important work has now been lodged with the appropriate civil authorities. A detailed brief will be made available in the New Year. This Church, designed by William Hague, was opened in 1872 by Fr. Peter O'Reilly. The last work on the Church was begun in 1985.

The Parish Office re-opens on January 4th, 2011.

CEMETERY SUNDAY 2011

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT THE ANNUAL CEMETERY MASS WILL BE ON THE BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND WITH MASS CELEBRATED AT 12 NOON ON SUNDAY, 31ST JULY, 2011

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

The O'Connell family thank all who sympathised with them on the recent death of their mother, Eileen.

Lost: A set of keys—if found please contact 086/2502572.

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

The concert in aid of St. Ernan's Restoration Fund cancelled because of weather conditions will now take place on 5th January at 7.30 p.m.

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

Kingscourt Stars G.A.A. wish all players, supporters, sponsors and members a happy Christmas and New Year and thank all for their support in a truly unforgettable 2010.

Stars Lotto Result: 07, 14, 16, 20. No winner. Next jackpot €6,000.

Handball & Racquetball Lotto Result: 14, 18, 20, 23. No winner.