



*We wish all our Parishioners and their families  
a Joyous and Happy Christmas*



**RONCALLI CHRISTMAS RANT**

**CHRISTMAS DAY CHALLENGE**

( if you could manage it, there's a lot of winners in it!)

NOTE: *This is only for girls and boys who are over 15yrs, three months and two days old. Everybody else should be just let get on with munching on reindeer cakes and guzzling drinking chocolate!*

However this is for the rest of us! It might be entitled:

*'How to avoid your house on Christmas Day becoming like a scene from Albert Square or a bad day in Fair City!'*

By the time you are reading this, Christmas fever will be at its height. Yet one more race to the shops. Last minute change of plans causing stress to soar...someone not coming home, or somebody you did not expect, and in many ways you could do without, on the way....

*A lot of doors were closed in Bethlehem that night. How about your own door?*

Oh right. Very good. And tell me, what about the door to your heart? Speaking of your heart, how is it? No I don't mean the valves or it's beat. Well maybe I do mean it's beat. Does it beat freely with love? Would it be a good seat for the Prince of Peace? Is there any irregularity or blockage? Could such an irregularity or blockage be caused by anger resentment or bitterness?

*Do we not yet know that such feelings are the road to no town and not many country places. Surely it's not a secret any more that forgiveness, even though it can be really difficult, is the sure way to deep peace. Don't forget to breathe! A couple of glasses of water can make a huge difference.*

Everywhere you go there's Christmas music, from Chris's 'Driving home from Christmas' to Michael Buble's 'Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas'. Indeed there's still a few places where you might hear 'Away in a Manger' or 'Silent Night'.

*Are you personally in any real danger of discovering that real Christmas joy is found in giving rather than receiving? (... mind that phone does'nt cause trouble!)*

There is one thing worse than soggy sprouts and that's sprouts like bullets, or is there?

*Here's a question for you: which would you prefer to be saying on Christmas Night, those sprouts were awful or b). hopefully we'll get good news from the doctors in the morning?*

One more question, will you be the one who blows up, the one who burns bridges this Christmas, or will you be the one that calms, distracts, soothes, will you be the messenger of peace?

*Why not be a real rebel this Christmas and whisper, well I really mean, stage whisper, the name of Jesus, whose birthday it is. You could do it covertly behind your hand, as you pass the cranberry. Better still why not go completely mad and hop up on the chair ( be careful of the wonky hip and mind the new knee), and shout out, good and loud, HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!*

I pray that you, and all those you carry in your heart, may be protected from all darkness and pain and may you know his love, joy and peace this Christmas!

*Oops nearly forgot....I will be celebrating Mass, the greatest prayer in the world at Midnight, yes Midnight, on Christmas Eve AND 11.30 pm on New Years Eve. I would just love that you could join me.*

*Fraternally, JoeMcD*

**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church**

**Mon 23rd 10** Rose O'Grady, Kathleen Lennon, Andy Krucskowski, Elizabeth Doherty  
**Tues 24th 10am:** Christmas Mass Intentions  
**Wed 25th 10am:** Christmas Mass Intentions  
**Thur 26th 10am:** James,Susan & Margaret Teague, CV Joseph, Mame Craddock  
**Fri 27th 10am:** John Burke, Margaret Murray, Johanna, Michael O'Sullivan  
**Sat 28th 10am:** Paddy Lacken, Mary Feighery, Peggy Owens, Special Intention

**Weekday Mass Intentions St. Brigid's Church**

**Thur 26th 9.15am:** Tom & Cora Talbot

**Planned Giving**-amount was €1317.75.

Thanks to all who contributed through the standing orders and the Planned Giving. Thanks also to the collectors and counters.

**Weekend Mass Intentions**

**St. Brigid's Church**

Sat 6pm: Anne Cothbart,  
 Sun 11am: Gerry Sweeney

**Weekend Mass Intentions St. Patrick's Church**

**Sat: 6.30pm:** Julia O' Connor, Madeline & Joe Darlington, Noel Doolan, Joe & Kathleen Young. Deceased members Kelly Family  
**Sun: 8.30am:** Patsy Magee & Magee family members  
**9.30am:** Margaret, Terence & John Gradon, Kathleen Doyle  
**11am:** Mary & Paddy Kilduff, Dick Lawlor  
**12.30pm:** Michael, Mary, Tommy & Billy Dunne, Sean Healy & family, Albert O' Neill  
**7pm:** John & Kathleen Murphy, Special intention

**The Nativity" by C.S. Lewis**

Among the oxen (like an ox I'm slow)  
 I see a glory in the stable grow  
 Which, with the ox's dullness might at length  
 Give me an ox's strength.

Among the asses (stubborn I as they)  
 I see my Saviour where I looked for hay;  
 So may my beastlike folly learn at least  
 The patience of a beast.

Among the sheep (I like a sheep have strayed)  
 I watch the manger where my Lord is laid;  
 Oh that my baa-ing nature would win thence  
 Some woolly innocence!

**A Big Thank You to ...** Those who decorate the Church, and those who do the flowers and the Altar and wash the Altar cloths, the parish choirs and all involved in music ministry in the parish, the volunteers of the Play and Pray, the sacristans Bernadette, Angela and Josie, the stewards, those who count the money, and do the Lotto, Sylvia who has worked so hard to keep the Church grounds looking great, the church cleaning team and all those Parishioners who assist in any way at Christmas time and throughout the year.

Grateful thanks to parishioners who are distributing the planned giving envelopes. Thank also to Anthony Lee for donating the straw for the Crib and Gerry Dooley from the Orchard Garden Centre who donated the outside Christmas tree and last but not least to Len Cotter (St. Patrick's) and Maurice Salmon (St. Brigid's) for the beautiful Crib's .

**CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE**

The schedule for the Mass times and other services is available on the table at the back of the Church

**The Christmas Mass Cards** are on sale in the Sacristy and from the Parish Office. The intentions for both the living and the deceased will be remembered at all the Masses on Christmas eve and Christmas day. The card cost €5 each

**PLANNED GIVING BOXES FOR 2020**

The Planned Giving Envelopes have been distributed over the last number of weeks. There are a number of estates not covered as yet. It would be greatly appreciated if Collectors and any other parishioners would pick up their boxes from the **Sacristy**.

Anyone who is willing to distribute boxes no matter how many, would be very welcome. It doesn't necessarily have to be your own estate. If you are out walking it might suit you to drop a few boxes. Thank you.

**Please Support our Weekly Parish Lotto**



The profit from our Lotto goes to developing our Parish.  
 The prize fund is now at €3500  
 The lotto envelopes can be placed in the safe at the back of the Church in St. Patricks & St. Brigid's & the collection bags at the Masses.  
 You pick four numbers between 1 - 30. One line just €2, 3 lines €5.  
 This week numbers were: 1st draw: 5,24,9, 7 2nd draw: 12,15,30, 2  
 3 consolation prize winners: Larry Ready, Camilla Hunt, Jim Kealy  
 Prizes can be collected in the Sacristy during weekend Mass times. Prizes have to be collected within 30 days of the draw.  
 Our next draw will take place on Monday afternoon.  
 Envelopes must be submitted before 10.30am on Mondays

**A DAY FOR LIFE AND FAITH IN IRELAND -JANUARY 1ST SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
 To register your church, and to print off the Prayer Programme: visit: www.coastalrosaryireland.ie Or call/text 0872786552.

1 in 10 Rosary Crusade for Ireland.  
 Will you help Our Lady to transform Ireland by praying the Rosary or one decade every day, if so, please sign the 1 in 10 Rosary pledge at the back of the Church after Mass.

**Christmas Dues** envelopes available at the back of the Church and can be placed in the baskets at Mass time or dropped into the Sacristy.