

Christmas Mass Time Schedule

Christmas Eve

Abbeyside 7.00 p.m

Ballinroad 6.00 p.m

Garranbane 6.00 p.m

Christmas Day

9.30 a.m

12.00 p.m

10.00 a.m

11.00 a.m

Daily Mass:

Mon 26th to Fri 30th @ 10.00 a.m - Abbeyside Church

Parish Details:

Parish Office, Strandside South

058-45787

Website: www.abgparish.ie

Email: abgparish@gmail.com

Donate: <https://abgparish.ie/donations/>

Webcam: www.abgparish.ie/live

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM_q15eoN7Ss7DG49BMWVPA

UCM_q15eoN7Ss7DG49BMWVPA

Facebook: [ABG Parish](#)

Christmas Bulletin 2022

Abbeyside, Ballinroad &

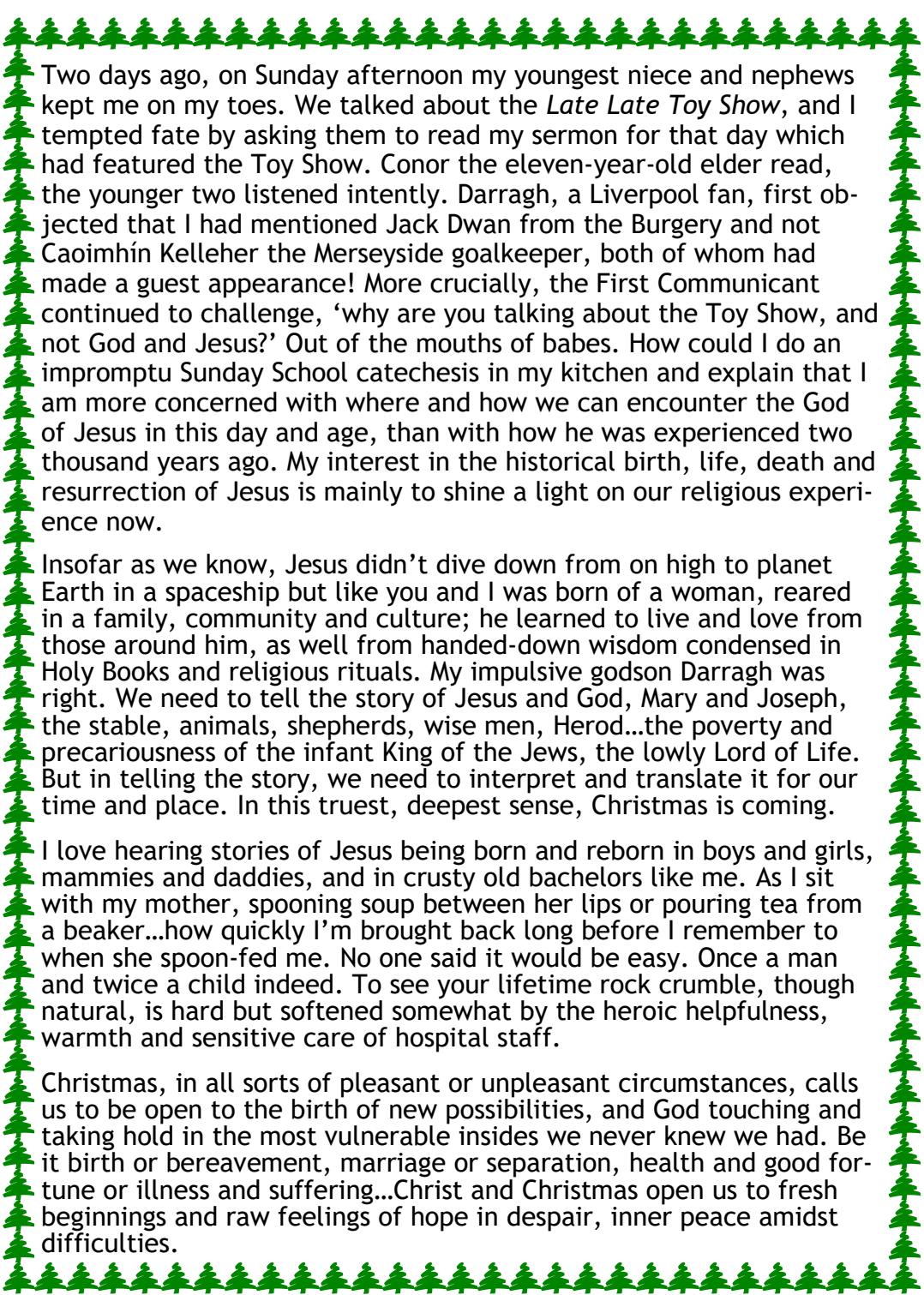
Garranbane Parish



Christmas Greetings

I'm with my mother in St. Vincent's, Dungarvan Community Hospital, as I begin this note on Tuesday afternoon, 29th November. She is quiet, and I take out my laptop to begin these greetings to you. A year ago, I was in dread of being off the road. Since March 1st when the driving disqualification took effect, I've learned that the bike is far better than I had thought. I can get around the county, but it takes longer, and I can carry less. I've been wet and cold, and cough and sneeze more than before. I've splashed out on waterproof jackets and trousers, even wearing wellingtons on really wet days. You have been so generous with lifts, and the experience as a passenger chatting with various drivers, has been enlightening and intimate. Thank you. And of course, there have been many times when I stayed at home due to logistical complications, which in itself is no bad thing.

Bishop Martin Drennan, being waked today and buried tomorrow in Galway Cathedral, looms large. While my Old Testament teacher in Maynooth, it was as Spiritual Director that he influenced me more than I realise. 'Well how are things?' he casually began our first session. Thinking it to be a preamble before getting to the serious stuff, I muttered half under my breath, 'grand, if only I could get on the hurling team!' Anger and ego emerged as issues needing my attention, elicited almost before we were even sitting down. Always alert, open and ready to follow wherever I wished to explore, and able to help me unearth the key building or stumbling blocks towards maturing. Never intrusive, but wise and attuned to human experience. A great guide. Last April I sat close to him, due to Parkinson's a physically crumbled version of the fit man I used to know, at the installation of his second successor. Hoping to have a word after the ceremony, he was wheeled away before I could make my move. In truth, it was he who helped me to embark on the arduous but enriching inward odyssey to feelings, both long buried and newly born.

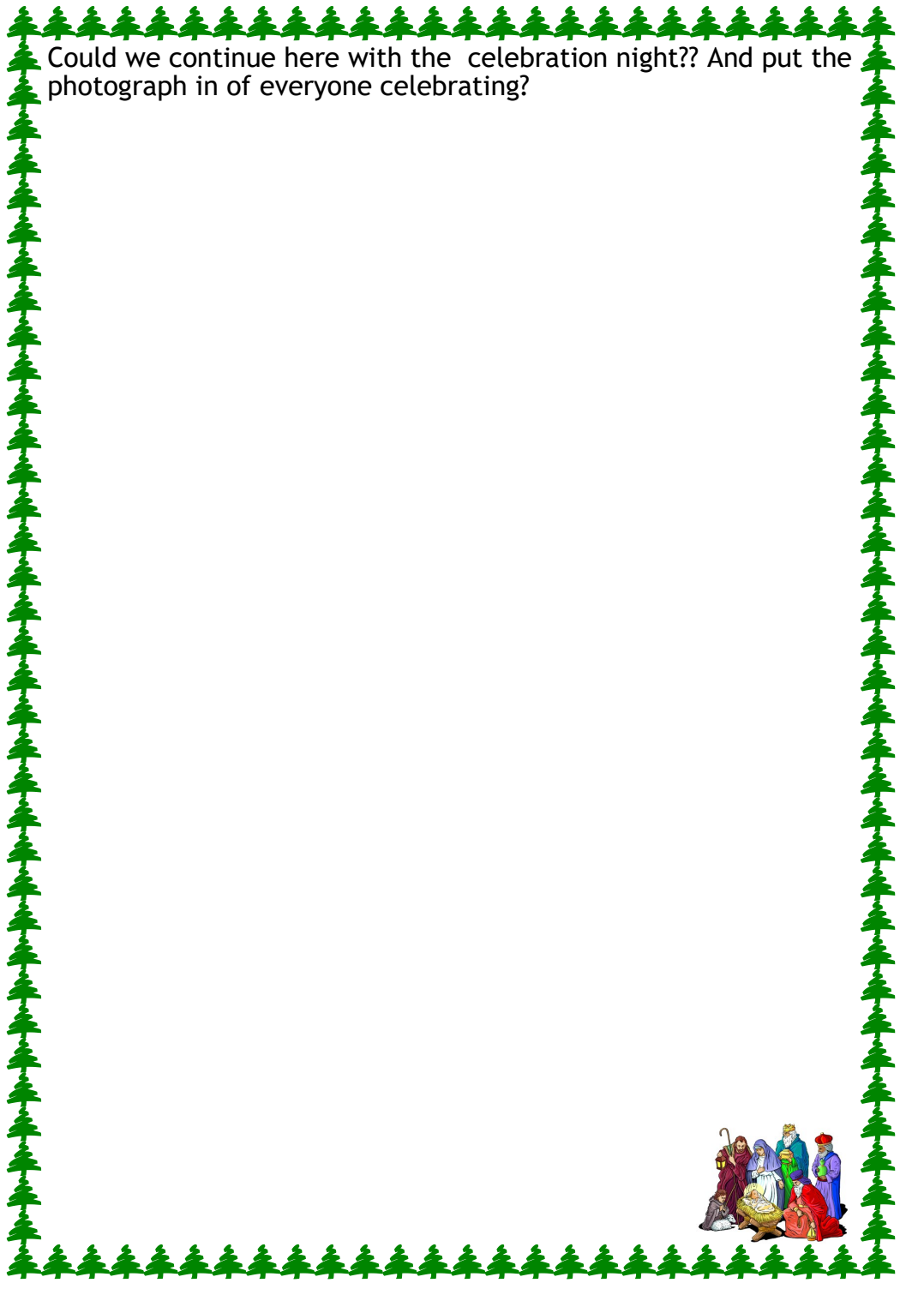


Two days ago, on Sunday afternoon my youngest niece and nephews kept me on my toes. We talked about the *Late Late Toy Show*, and I tempted fate by asking them to read my sermon for that day which had featured the Toy Show. Conor the eleven-year-old elder read, the younger two listened intently. Darragh, a Liverpool fan, first objected that I had mentioned Jack Dwan from the Burgery and not Caoimhín Kelleher the Merseyside goalkeeper, both of whom had made a guest appearance! More crucially, the First Communicant continued to challenge, ‘why are you talking about the Toy Show, and not God and Jesus?’ Out of the mouths of babes. How could I do an impromptu Sunday School catechesis in my kitchen and explain that I am more concerned with where and how we can encounter the God of Jesus in this day and age, than with how he was experienced two thousand years ago. My interest in the historical birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus is mainly to shine a light on our religious experience now.

Insofar as we know, Jesus didn’t dive down from on high to planet Earth in a spaceship but like you and I was born of a woman, reared in a family, community and culture; he learned to live and love from those around him, as well from handed-down wisdom condensed in Holy Books and religious rituals. My impulsive godson Darragh was right. We need to tell the story of Jesus and God, Mary and Joseph, the stable, animals, shepherds, wise men, Herod...the poverty and precariousness of the infant King of the Jews, the lowly Lord of Life. But in telling the story, we need to interpret and translate it for our time and place. In this truest, deepest sense, Christmas is coming.

I love hearing stories of Jesus being born and reborn in boys and girls, mummies and daddies, and in crusty old bachelors like me. As I sit with my mother, spooning soup between her lips or pouring tea from a beaker...how quickly I’m brought back long before I remember to when she spoon-fed me. No one said it would be easy. Once a man and twice a child indeed. To see your lifetime rock crumble, though natural, is hard but softened somewhat by the heroic helpfulness, warmth and sensitive care of hospital staff.

Christmas, in all sorts of pleasant or unpleasant circumstances, calls us to be open to the birth of new possibilities, and God touching and taking hold in the most vulnerable insides we never knew we had. Be it birth or bereavement, marriage or separation, health and good fortune or illness and suffering...Christ and Christmas open us to fresh beginnings and raw feelings of hope in despair, inner peace amidst difficulties.



Could we continue here with the celebration night?? And put the photograph in of everyone celebrating?



Parish Support

We sincerely thank everyone who contributes to the upkeep of our parish as we depend on our Sunday offertory collections to cover running costs and for the upkeep and maintenance of the churches, buildings and graveyards. The survival of the parish depends on your continued financial support. As a way of allowing the Parish make the most of their donation, many people use weekly envelopes, standing orders or cheques thereby enabling us to claim back up to an extra 45c for every €1 given. The parish office is currently up-dating records held by us of parishioners who receive boxes of collection envelopes and we ask that **if you are not** receiving a box and would like to do so, or would like to set up a **Standing Order** please contact the office at:-

abgparish@gmail.com or by phone at 058-45787

New to the area?

Our Parish Community welcomes you and hope that you are settling in well. You are welcome to join us for weekend and other liturgies in our Parish of Abbeyside, Ballinroad and Garranbane. The parish calendar has all our contact details.

A Big Thank You

Our parish depends on the daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal involvement of lots of committed Christians. Hardy helpful people who deliver door to door this bulletin, along with parish calendar and envelopes.

mention office staff, sacristans, the pastoral council, the finance council the volunteers who've helped with projects like Michael Cass, Tony in Ballinroad etc, CE Workers.

Nothing, as you know, happens without effort, energy and organisation.



When I asked Martin Drennan how he remembered what people had told him in spiritual direction, he simply said 'you never forget people's feelings.' At just the moment I typed this (Thursday morning 1st December), I peeped out the back bedroom window sensing an extra brightness. There was cloud, low on the water, a thin band above, and a thicker floating mass above that again. What drew me to the window was the gleaming golden upper edge of the bottom cloud band. Then it got even more molten and dazzling as the curved yellow-white fireball eased up and over, transforming all grey and blinding me, forced to type by touch. Could this upward overcoming be what awaits my failing Mam, and everyone this and every Christmas and every day between? A Christ and Christmas of presents and presence; a rejoicing in the God who emerges from within us, walks with and finally resurrects us from our last breath, as we're reborn into a world without want, enmity or end.

Nollaig Shona

Fr Ned

Emigrants' Mass—Our Emigrants' Mass was celebrated by Father Hassett on Saturday 10th December. Greetings from the Parish were sent to many countries around the world where emigrants are presently based. The Mass was streamed live and was watched in the following countries: Australia, USA, England, Scotland, Wales, Lanzarote, Finland, Lebanon, New Zealand, Dubai, Spain, Indonesia, Argentina, Czech Republic and Canada.

Christmas Clergy Collection

Many of us are suffering financially due to the spiralling cost of living. We really appreciate and depend on your great generosity. For convenience you can donate online, continue to use weekly envelopes and we will shortly be introducing a tap and go system.



WORD SEARCH CHRISTMAS 2022



S	Y	M	I	V	D	B	Q	S	W	C	Q	Q	F	R	E	M	H	R	N	H	A	G
G	S	T	P	S	O	B	R	I	E	N	M	K	L	E	N	S	A	W	X	R	V	X
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J	A	L	M	E	A	G	H	A	R	T	P	P	O	Q	G	I	B	B	S	P	R	C

Find the words listed below in the word search grid. The words can go across, down or diagonally.

One word is missing from the grid. Find that word and send it, together with your name and address to the Parish Office, Strandside South, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co Waterford on or before 4th January. All correct answers will go into a draw for a prize.

ABBEYSIDE	GEOGHEGAN	NAVIN
BALLINROAD	GIBBS	O'BRIEN
BREEN	KENEALY	O'DONOVAN
BULFIN	KENNEALLY	O'DWYER
BUTLER	LEO	O'FLYNN
CARROLL	MEAGHAR	O'RIORDAN
CLANCY	MEDAL	PARISH
COLLINS	MEEHAN	PRENDERGAST
CONNORS	MELODY	SHINE
COYNE	MOLONEY	STRAIN
CROWTHER	MORRISSEY	TROY
DE PAOR	MULCAHY	VERLING
FOLEY	MULLARKEY	
GARRANBANE	MURRAY	

Search the grid to find the words listed above. 2 words will be left over, send the two words together with your name and address to the Parish Office before 4th January to be in with a chance of winning a prize.