

## Christmas Past

Michael Commane

The Christmas Season ends tomorrow with the feast of the Epiphany.

Over the Christmas time I was thinking of **all the fun and excitement Santa brought me when I was a child.**

It was the one time in the year that my father stoked over the fire so that it would be lighting when we got up the next morning. It's something I still do on occasion, and looking at it before heading off to bed, I think of him and my mother.

Dad's father was born in West Kerry, went working in the creamery in Ballybofey in Donegal, where my father was born in 1909. Dad left Donegal at six but still had a Donegal accent at 95. My mother was born near Thurles in Tipperary. She left the county in her late teens but I never detected a Tipperary accent and certainly when she died at 78 there was not a single Tipperary vowel sound in her speech. Then again, the Donegal accent seems to stick with people as does no other, maybe with the exception of the Kerry accent. In my job as hospital chaplain I take great delight in spotting Donegal, Kerry and Tipperary accents.

Aren't we all steeped in our ancestry?

In the last 20, 30 years or so, more and more people in Ireland and the western world have waved bye bye to the story of Jesus. Though, I can vividly recall my mother in the 1950s forecasting the demise of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Wasn't it former Labour government minister Ruairi Quinn at a venue in the US, who spoke about a post Catholic Ireland?

And yet our church this Christmas was filled to capacity.

We all want to be inspired and challenged. No one wants to be patronised and spoken down to. And unfortunately, anyone, who has a platform can easily go down that road: teachers, journalists, priests, managers, employers.

God's Word offers us a powerful challenge. It's a life-long journey. We are all in process, we are all searching. I'm always nervous of those who have pat answers.

The wonder and mystery of God is far beyond our imaginings.

Maybe the God on whom many have turned their backs was the creation of those with the platform and had little or nothing to do with God. But all to do with power and control.

It was a privilege to have celebrated the Eucharist here this Christmas with you.

Thank you.

## Christmas collections 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Offertory Collection : €6346

Share Collection: €5458

## Collections 29th December 2019

Offertory Collection: €1331

Share Collection: € 913

**On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council**

**Fr Paul Taylor PP and Fr Michael Commane, OP, wish you and your family,**

**A Happy New Year, rich in health and kindness**

**Pianist at 6.15pm Evening Mass** We urgently require a pianist for the Sunday evening Mass. This will be a temporary position, and if you can help, please contact our Pastoral Worker, Jackie Hearne at 087 7422653. *Thank you.*

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. Meditation is the quiet prayer of faith, silence, stillness and simplicity handed on to us by the Benedictine Monk, John Main O.S.B. All are welcome.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Beide an tSeirbhis Idirchreidmeach in Ardteampall Chriost. Baile Átha Cliath, Dé

hAoine an 24 Eanáir 2020 @ 8pm

The Annual Interdenominational ecumenical service in Irish, will be held in Christ Church Cathedral at 8 O'Clock on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January. The liturgy is shared between Pobal Aifrin and cumann Gaelach na h-Eaglaise.

Monthly offering envelopes will be available from next week.

## **Christmas and New Year Liturgies 2020**

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020** Feast of the Epiphany

**Masses 7.30am; 10.00 am; 6.15pm**

**7.30am Daily Mass will resume on Mon 6<sup>th</sup> January**