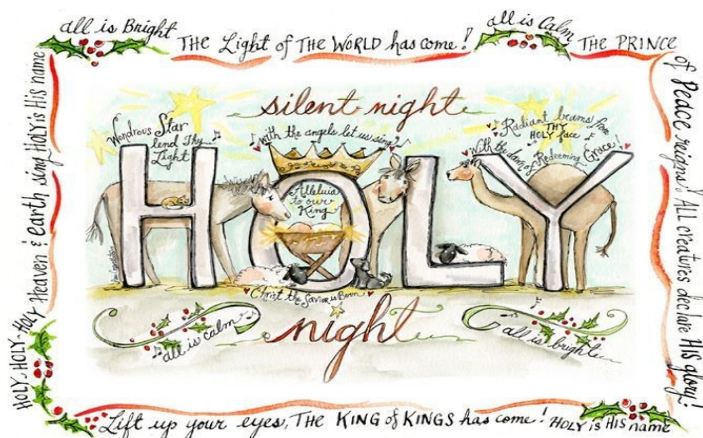


The Family

Templeogue



Christmas Letter 2023

Dear Parishioners

Gosh where did that year go? Sitting here in my office looking at the golden leaves of autumn towards the tail end of November and looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you all here in the parish.

As always, I wish you and all your families a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year. I also welcome those who have returned to St. Jude's to be with their families this Christmas.

Again, we live in turbulent times with the Crises in Gaza (please God by the time you read this the worst might be over) and the Ukraine War still trundling on, even if it's not on our main headlines. We had a lovely evening in January celebrating with our new Ukrainian neighbours and friends their Christmas Day on January the 6th. The way Christmas, New Year and the 6th of January are falling this year the timetable is very crowded, so we'll do something with them later in the year, maybe around Easter.

As I write this note on the 23rd of November - it's a beautiful day and we are looking forward to full churches for our Carol Service, Christmas Masses and Reconciliation services and of course our Parish Fayre.

As always here in St Jude's' it's been a busy year on the sacramental front - with last year's baby boom continuing and many happy moments of families coming together to welcome them to the Church through Baptism.

In our wonderful Primary Schools, we were able to celebrate First Confessions, Holy Communions & Confirmations in a more normal way with full churches over the different ceremonies. Also, Graduation masses for them and Saint Mac Dara's.

Congratulations to all who had significant moments in their lives, Marriages, New babies and additions to the family, new homes and even new pets - Becks of course rules the roost here in Rossmore and gets me walking the roads around 7am each morning.

Greetings and thanks to our schools, teachers, Boards of Management and SNA's and of course Mick - and our ever-patient Lollipop ladies (who have their work cut out for them with the upcoming new road plan) for their support and kindness over the year as we endeavour to do our best for the next generation.

We welcome the new Boards of Management who are starting up as we speak and thank those who are stepping aside for their commitment over the last number of years.

Our Parish Pastoral Council, thanks to those who retired and welcome to the new members. Our volunteers who continue to clean the church.

Last Sunday we said a sad farewell after 13 years to Judit who has gone onto the prestigious position of Organist in St Michael and co-ordinator of the annual Dun Laoghaire Organ festival. We will most certainly miss her and thank her for her commitment to liturgical music in the parish over the years. Thankfully Evelyn Hearn will take over as our new musical director and organist and we wish her every happiness in that role along with Ami Hewitt our resident soloist.

Our Folk Group also have had a change in personnel with the retirement of Derek Manning (whose excellent book was launched recently entitled 'Numbers, Notes and Nerves' and Susan Colgan and Sean Morris taking on the leadership roles.

Our other ministries (Eucharistic ministers, Flower Team, Finance & Maintenance volunteers, Gardeners and more!

Also change in the Montessori school with its founder Kathleen Nugent retiring and we wish her many years of happiness and thank her for her great work in the school over many years. Rita Archibold has taken over and is settling in beautifully.

Thanks for continuing to contribute to our parish, through online and directly, the priests (not just me but priests who work in all parishes, rich and poor and in-between) and through the Christmas & Easter Dues. Also, to those who contribute to the ongoing maintenance and fabric of the parish and the community centre. Obviously like yourselves our electricity and gas bills have risen dramatically but we will continue to be careful with the lighting and heating and try not to be wasteful my mother was from a stone's throw away from Cavan so I've plenty of practice! As she used to say, 'no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes!'

On a sad note, this will be the first Christmas some of you will have following the loss of a loved one, may you be supported by the Christmas message of hope in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Finally enclosed please find our Christmas Timetable!

With every best wish to you and yours. Happy Christmas and Happy 2024

Fr. Brendan Madden P.P.& Becks

Please find copy of our 2022 Financial Statement on back of this letter.