

# Kilberran Klips

December 2008 Vol. 14 No 7

## The Rector Writes Christmas for you this year?

For many reasons it's a strange Christmas. Uncharted one might say!

After the economic certainties of the Celtic Tiger years we are now in uncertain times, uncharted times for many, especially younger people.

The easy accessibility of well paid employment is already a thing of the dim distant past. As companies come under increasing financial constraints both they and the jobs they provided are now in some cases under threat. Similarly the housing and construction market has undergone dramatic change with many job losses in the sector and considerable reduction in house prices. This and the difficulty in securing finance has slowed the market to a standstill. The meltdown in the Stock Exchanges around the world and the bailing out of the banking industry has caused hardships and uncertainty at unprecedented levels- uncharted times indeed!

Our prayer in all of this is that we can hold on, that no one is too badly affected, that we manage, even if at a lower level or expectation than in recent years. We will need to be careful in our spending and more thoughtful in purchasing items of real value, more focussed on what Christmas is at its very essence!

Perhaps all of this points us again to long term hopes, long term plans - to look again at what is real and enduring - rather than to grasp and grab at the short term which as we have seen can so easily all slip from our grasp!

The Church and Christians at this wonderful season of Christmas look again to a little baby born 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem. As we do so the mystery and hope of Christ's birth touches our hearts and lives in a new and continuing way -

- the little baby so loved by his parents;
- his Lordship, recognised by people at all levels - from shepherds to wise men.
- Yet, a baby who from his very birth met with the world's hardships and suffering - and in his love endured even death on the cross.
- His hardships and suffering and his resurrection, far from being the end were to be a gateway to God's glory.

Looking at these snippets of the Gospel expressed so bluntly we can also recognise that God's love coming to us and to his Church in the baby Jesus

- has endured from the beginning and will continue for all eternity
- God's love with us - touching us with his compassion
- freeing us by his mercy and forgiveness
- accompanying us on our journey in the power of his Spirit.
- Until, enduring to the end, we share in his resurrection glory and enter into the fullness of life in God's nearer presence.

As we look to Christmas 2008 we realise the uncertainty of these times, the uncharted course ahead in 2009 and beyond. But in all of this we can also see Christmas in a new way, at a different level, one that is more fulfilling and valued and in which we know that in Christ Jesus, God has charted a plan for all who turn and come to him.

Because of these truths I can truly wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas

- welcoming home loved ones
  - sharing around the family table
  - enjoying the goodwill of the season
  - and above all and through it all, knowing God's saving love embracing you.
- His love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things - that's the gift of Christmas that we celebrate each Sunday and at Christmas as we gather to worship God whose love came down at Christmas.

Part of Christmas, a very big part, is to join with the Church family as we gather in the parish church to worship God and to give thanks for the renewal of his love in our lives.

God bless you all

David

## **CAN YOU SLEEP WHILE THE WIND BLOWS?**

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops. As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals.

Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him. "Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man. Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!" The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows." Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

## MORAL OF THE STORY

When you're prepared, spiritually, mentally, and physically, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God.

**We don't need to understand, we just need to hold His hand to have peace in the middle of storms.**

The text of this beautiful story was forwarded to me by a friend without an author noted. We have just found that this is an Uncle Arthur story. I think the title was "I can sleep on windy nights" from -- Uncle Arthur's Online.

To view this in its original form with the tune Peace in the Valley playing as an accompaniment, copy and paste the link below into your browser and then click on Years ago - it is quite beautiful  
<http://www.hall4bc04.org/Storm.htm>

## Diary for November, December, January

November 30<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday 8.30 am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Prayer  
Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer and prayer for the sick  
8.00 pm School Board of Management meets

December 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 10.00am -1.00pm Christmas Bazaar and coffee morning  
Parish centre - % of proceeds in aid of e-learning project in the school

December 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Essential Youth Service in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin

December 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday 2.30pm Mothers' Union Christmas visit to Glebe House

December 7<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Family service  
Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

December 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer and prayer for the sick

December 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday 1.00 pm Tuesday Club Christmas lunch in Old Conna Golf Club  
8.00 pm School Board of Management meets

December 12<sup>th</sup> Friday 3.00pm School Christmas party

December 14<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
8.00pm Ecumenical Carol Service in St. Mary's Church Sandyford  
Readings: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, I Thessalonians 5:16-24

December 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer and prayer for the sick  
7.30pm School Carol Service - Seniors

December 19<sup>th</sup> Friday 10.00 am School Carol Service - Juniors

December 21<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Parish Carol Service followed by refreshments  
Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16, Romans 16:25-27

December 22<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7.30pm School Carol Service ( 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes)

December 23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 9.30am School Carol Service ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> classes)

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve 10.00am Morning Prayer and prayer for the sick  
11.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion of Christmas with carols and hymns  
Readings Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day 8.30am Holy Communion  
Readings Isaiah 62: 6-12 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: 8-20  
10.30am Family Communion and carols  
Readings Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1: 1-14

December 28<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 8.30am Holy Communion  
10.30am Songs of Praise

December 31<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer and prayer for the sick

January 4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas 8.30am Holy Communion  
10. am Family Service

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Here are some great tips....

Peel a banana from the bottom and you won't have to pick the little 'stringy things' off of it. That's how the primates do it.

Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.

Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminium foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mould!

Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.

Add a teaspoon of water when frying minced beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.

To really make scrambled eggs or omelettes rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream in and then beat them up.

Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.

Reheat Pizza. Heat up leftover pizza in a non stick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza.

Easy Devilled Eggs. Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the bag, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done easy clean up.

Reheating refrigerated bread. To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

Newspaper weeds away. Start putting in your plants, work the nutrients in your soil. Wet newspapers, put layers around the plants overlapping as you go cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic they will not get through wet newspapers.

Broken Glass. Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.

No More Mosquitoes. Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

Squirrel Away! To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.

Flexible vacuum. To get something out of a heat register or under the fridge add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

Reducing Static Cling. Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and ... ta da! ... static is gone.

Measuring Cups. Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry cup. Next, add your ingredient, such as Golden Syrup and watch how easily it comes right out.

Foggy Windshield? Hate foggy windshields? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the window s fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth!

Reopening envelope. If you seal an envelope and then realise you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Voila! It unseals easily.

Conditioner. Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair.

Goodbye Fruit Flies. To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2' with Apple Cider Vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid; mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!

Get Rid of Ants. Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it 'home,' can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!

## Kate

Mrs. E. Marshall of the Whiston School of Nursing writes that Kate was a geriatric patient who had little power of communication but was often seen writing. These verses were found in her locker after her death.

What do you see nurses, what do you see?  
What are you thinking when you look at me?  
A crabbit old woman, not very wise  
Uncertain of habit with far-away eyes  
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply  
When you say in a loud voice "I do wish you'd try"  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do  
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe  
Who unresisting or not lets you do as you will  
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill  
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see  
Then open your eyes nurse, you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still  
As I use at your bidding, as I eat at your will  
I'm a small child often with a father and mother  
Brothers and sisters who love one another  
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet  
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet  
A bride soon at twenty, my heart gives a leap  
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep  
At twenty five now I have young of my own  
Who need me to build a secure happy home  
A young woman of thirty my young now grow fast  
Bound to each other with ties that should last  
At forty my young ones now grown will soon be gone  
But my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn  
At fifty once more babies play round me knee  
Again we know children my loved ones and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead  
I look to the future I shudder with dread  
For my young ones are all busy rearing young of their own  
And I think of the years and the love I have known  
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel  
'Tis her jest to make old age look a fool  
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart  
There now is a stone where I once had a heart  
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells  
And now and again my battered heart swells  
I remember the joys, I remember the pain

And I'm loving and living life over again  
I think of the years all too few - gone too fast  
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last  
So open your eyes nurses, open and see  
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer - see me!

## **NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THIS ANIMALS GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

The Tecopa Pupfish

**Physical Description:** One of the 12 varieties of pupfish found in the U.S., the Tecopa pupfish was blue with a black vertical streak at the end of its tail. The female could be distinguished by her stripes. The whoppers of this subspecies barely topped 1 in. in length.

**Where and How They Lived:** The Tecopa pupfish made its home in little salty pools and thermal springs near Death Valley National Monument in eastern California. Thriving in waters up to 108 deg. F, these tiny fish ate blue-green algae and produced anywhere from 2 to 10 generations of offspring in a year's time.

**How and When Destroyed:** During the 1940s the North and South Tecopa Hot Springs were channelled by the builders of a bathhouse. The pupfish had difficulty adapting to the swift-flowing water; their halcyon days filled with basking and munching greens in gentle, tepid pools were over. Mosquito fish were introduced to the Tecopa waters, where they developed a taste for both the usual pupfish fare and the pupfish themselves. Water pollution from the agricultural and recreational development of the area sounded the final death knell. The last pupfish were spotted in an artificial pond and creek at Jed's Motel in Tecopa Hot Springs. Government biologists have been on the lookout for the Tecopa pupfish since 1970, but it was removed from the endangered animals list in 1978 and declared extinct. "The most depressing thing about this loss of life-form is that it was totally avoidable," said Robert Herbst, the assistant secretary of the interior at the time. The bathhouse has long since gone bankrupt and been deserted.

### **Office spring -clean**

In a bid to create some space in the parish office which has become cluttered with old files, it has been decided to destroy all documents relating to matters prior to 1987. For the sake of safety and security however a copy of everything will be made before it is destroyed. T.L.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health has said that heavy drinking is to blame for alcoholism

Rector: You drive, I'll pray

N.S.M. student: What's the matter, don't you trust my praying?

Kiltarnan Kid's Korner

Q. What's fast, bald and takes pictures?

A. A Kojak Instamatic

## **Not many people know this about petrol tanks... which side?**

I have been driving for nearly 50 years... in that time I feel I should have noticed the little secret on my dashboard that was staring me in the face the whole time...I didn't...and I bet you didn't either...

Have you ever rented or borrowed a car and when arriving at the petrol station wondered...mmm, which side is the petrol filler cap? I have been driving my current car for three years now and occasionally still forget this useful piece of information!

Some people try to stick their head out the window, straining their neck and look, trying to see in the side mirrors. In the end it's usually easier and quicker to get out of the car and check! By this time of course there is a 50/50 chance that you have pulled on the wrong side of the pump and may experience some difficulty in getting the nozzle of the pump to extend comfortably to the tank. You are also some distance from the pump and may have some difficulty in reading the gauge.

Well ladies and gentlemen, here is a little secret so that you will no longer look like Ace Ventura on your way to the petrol station or put your neck at risk of discomfort or injury. If you look at your petrol gauge, you will see a small icon of a petrol pump. The handle of the petrol pump will extend out on either the left or right side of the petrol pump. If your tank is on the left, the handle will be on the left. If your tank is on the right, the handle will be on the right (see photo). It is that simple!

Terry Lilburn

P.S. Always having had trouble in this area I was delighted to find out this information. I recently went to the filling station only to discover that this does not apply to my Nissan Primera. Now I have to remember that fuel tank is on the opposite side to the pump nozzle displayed!

### **Some words of wisdom that we can all use**

Do not walk behind me for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either, just go away and leave me alone.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a flat tyre.

The darkest hours come just before dawn. So if you are going to steal your neighbour's milk and newspaper this is the time to do it.

Don't aspire to becoming irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced you can't be promoted Remember that you are unique, like everyone else.

Don't test the depth of the water with both feet

Before you judge someone you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way when you judge them you are a mile away and you have their shoes.

If at first you don't succeed avoid skydiving

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat drinking beer all day

The most wasted day of all is one when we have not laughed

### **Chairs for parish centre**

Once again a thank you to all who have contributed towards to cost of these lovely new chairs. There is however still a gap between the amount donated and the overall cost. If you feel you would like to make a contribution, (the cost of one chair is €50) but feel unable to commit this amount, we are more than happy to accept ANY donation.

### **Bishops' Appeal**

Conscious that at this time of year there are very big demands on everyone's purse, we nevertheless ask that you consider making a contribution to the Bishops' Appeal. As usual an envelope is included with this issue so that any donation may be made anonymously. Please take the time to consider just how far €1 goes when it is spent in the developing world - it will for example feed a child for a week. Out of all that we have, all that we have been given, all that we enjoy can we each spare just a few

euros for those with almost nothing? There are many of them; one billion people are today living on less than 75c.

PLEASE, PLEASE, consider making a donation large or small. Thank you to all who have already contributed to this appeal through the year, either through the parish scheme or directly.

## EMERGENCY CALLS

Believe it or not , These are Nashville , TN 's REAL 9 11 Calls!

Dispatcher : 9-1-1 What is your emergency?

Caller: I heard what sounded like gunshots coming from the brown house on the corner.

Dispatcher: Do you have an address?

Caller: No, I have on a blouse and slacks, why? ;

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What is your emergency?

Caller : Someone broke into my house and took a bite out of my ham and cheese sandwich .

Dispatcher : Excuse me?

Caller : I made a ham and cheese sandwich and left it on the kitchen table and when I came back from the bathroom, someone had taken a bite out of it.

Dispatcher : Was anything else taken?

Caller : No, but this has happened to me before and I'm sick and tired of it!

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What is the nature of your emergency?

Caller: I'm trying to reach nine eleven but my phone doesn't have an eleven on it.

Dispatcher: This is nine eleven.

Caller: I thought you just said it was nine-one-one

Dispatcher: Yes, ma'am nine-one-one and nine-eleven are the same thing.

Caller: Honey, I may be old, but I'm not stupid.

My Personal Favorite!!!

Dispatcher: 9-1-1 What's the nature of your emergency?

Caller: My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart

Dispatcher: Is this her first child?

Caller: No, you idiot! This is her husband!

And the winner is.....

Dispatcher: 9-1-1

Caller: Yeah, I'm having trouble breathing. I'm all out of breath. Oh no, I think I'm going to pass out.

Dispatcher: Sir, where are you calling from?

Caller: I'm at a pay phone. North and Foster.

Dispatcher: Sir, an ambulance is on the way. Are you an asthmatic?

Caller: No

Dispatcher: What were you doing before you started having trouble breathing?

Caller: Running from the Police.

## ODD WORDS

These are just some of the words Australia's biggest online dictionary is asking people to vote for as word of the year for its latest annual update.

"Tanorexia" refers to an obsession with a suntan, while a "salad dodger" is an obese person.

Other nominations for the Macquarie Dictionary Online include "infomania", for those who constantly put aside the job at hand to concentrate on incoming email and text messages. "Password fatigue" is frustration from having too many passwords to recall.

Casting aside the personal, someone who spreads their clothes around the house, clean or otherwise, is said to be treating the room as a "floordrobe".

Or if the global credit crunch is hitting home, you may be tempted into becoming a "credit card tart", or someone who shifts loans around from one credit card to pay for another.

In business, the "glass cliff" refers to people placed in jobs with high risk of failure because they belong to a group not well represented in leadership positions, such as women.

Even geopolitics gets a mention, with "Chindia" joining China and India, at least in Australish English, in terms of their fast growing strategic and economic clout in the world.

The "Great Firewall of China" noun refers to the block preventing Chinese internet users from accessing online sites deemed undesirable by the Chinese government. To get around it may take a "cyberathlete", or professional computer game player.

Susan Butler, the dictionary's publisher, said environmental themes were hot this year in a time of global warming, with "climate canary" referring to a geographical feature, plant or animal species pointing to climate change.

"Toad juice" refers to a liquid fertiliser produced in Australia from pulverised cane toads, an introduced environmental pest marching its way across the continent.

To vote for their favourite word, Butler said people should visit [macquariedictionary.com.au](http://macquariedictionary.com.au). Voting closes on January 31. (Editing by Sanjeev Miglani)

### **Overcoming walls and barriers to make peace in the Holy Land -**

A public dialogue with four church leaders in the chapel of Trinity College Dublin on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

Over one hundred people attending realised the great significance of four church leaders present and participating in such an open accommodating manner. A few short years ago this would not have been possible in Ireland. As such it was an example of church leadership at its best - Cardinal Sean Brady, Rev. Roy Cooper, Rev. John Finlay and Archbishop Alan Harper evidently at ease with each other - listening, responding, sowing seeds of hope as each annunciated the Christian Gospel for our time and in our place - offering signs of hope and peace for Palestine and Israel - the Land we call Holy!

Now, with a new sense of confidence, the Church in Ireland, and amongst the churches of Ireland, can think outside itself; act out of our own history and from the peace-making of recent years to support and accompany Christians seeking a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel; and to seek to meet the needs of all people - Arab, Israeli, Palestinian, (Christian, Jew and Muslim), to live together in peace and harmony and to enjoy the fullness of life God offers to all people.

The four church leaders coming together to speak of their experience in Palestine and Israel in April/May 2008 recognises the need for the Christian churches to work ecumenically and to engage with people of other faiths and none to develop fresh understanding and respect that may allow peace and justice to flourish.

Rabbi Lionel Blue in his BBC Radio 4 thought for the day broadcast on May 10<sup>th</sup> November, encouraged us "to love ourselves more, but in doing so, not to love others less". These are words that express the need before us as we address the needs of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and also the needs of the Israeli people.

## **A paper given by the rector at a clerical gathering on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October – the eve of the recent Budget.**

Opening quotation Deuteronomy 8: 11-18

God and Mammon.

It's not so long ago that most of us had contact with the farming community. Cities did not hold such a central, powerful place. I speak of the '60s and up to the 80s, when farmers were forking dung from their sheds into trailers drawn by grey Ferguson tractors, often called 'little grey donkeys.' Things on the farm were done by hand.

Money was hard to get. The Bank of Ireland had an ad on television showing a £million which could be applied for by way of a loan. That was the theory. In practice it was quite impossible to access such money, or, indeed any money! Consequently people were used to making do, waiting until they could afford things and doing without! Hire purchase and indebtedness were circumstances hardly even contemplated.

The farming family had to be content to wait until harvest ---- waiting for the harvest crop, or the autumn livestock to be sold, hopefully bringing a return for the years labour. Outsiders marrying into farms found such practice hard to accept. But in all of this farmers lived close to the earth, to life and death, and to God.

Was it in the late 80's that attitudes to money changed?

Money became more plentiful, appreciation of money changed, and the love of money gripped people. Mortgages, personal and term loans became the order of the day. The flexible friend allowed purchases with or without money in the bank. The banks also began to make loans available to businesses - substantial loans unheard of before. Young people especially took full advantage of these changed circumstances, especially as the country moved into the 90's and climbed on the back of the Celtic Tiger. No longer did two and three generations have to live together. Everyone aspired to own their own home, or two! New businesses could access finance, old businesses could refinance, allowing them to grasp the moment and the opportunity of the day. Individuals lived to the full availing of credit freely offered by the banks - Peter was robbed to pay Paul, but that was OK, it was de rigueur!

In the late 90's and into the new millennium individuals and families got used to living beyond their means. Available credit allowed them to do so and everyone did! In that time some made very big profits. They were seen as movers and shakers - entrepreneurs of their day making a fortune in ways never before thought of!

Many others, however, are now not so fortunate. Their indebtedness is too great to sustain as the cash flow dried up - loans and mortgages are called in. The accessible, never ending supply of jobs in both the public and private sectors is no longer there and jobs are under threat. Others were simply bypassed by the Celtic Tiger and, feeling inadequate and incompetent, were marginalised.

Strangely enough, through all of this, our Government reassured the country that the economy was in good shape----- but these public protestations appear to have been less than truthful! A telling budget is due tomorrow.....

And we are no longer shovelling manure, we are in the manure!

Even as far back as Gleeson, who bust Bearings Bank, and more recently solicitor O'Loan, should have opened the public's eyes to the new dispensation. O'Loan could have kept going, kept the banks in the dark and at bay..... But the expectations and the credit dried up and precipitated his demise!

In parallel to what I have outlined the global economy was heating, over heating! Credit, which we can understand on a personal and individual basis, was affecting the money markets and financial institution globally.

Again Peter was being robbed to pay Paul.

Paper balances, futures, reinsured risks, okay in times of ongoing credit, were no longer sustainable. Uncertainty and selfish interest made demands that could not be met or sustained, and not just us but the whole world economy is in the manure!

There was little or no regulation in the industry.

There was massive greed and irresponsibility in management!

Massive, insensitive payments made to managers even as the ships sank!

And it looks as if little ol' Joe Soap will carry the can and shovel the manure going forward!

Few of us will escape unscathed from this downturn in the world economy....

We may be personally involved;

Our parishes will find it more difficult to make ends meet;

We will have to minister to those directly adversely affected;

The aid agencies will find it harder to raise funds;

The poor will get poorer, be worse hit, more marginalised.

Perhaps this is why I am disturbed by such emphasis on wealth and by institutions which live, not even in symbiotic relationship, but often as parasites on those who are the most vulnerable. Some, of course, will have only themselves to blame but I am reminded of the words of 1 Timothy 6:10 which urge us to be content - 6 - 10.

In all of this there is a very real need to realise our relative wealth. Alison Rooke wrote a good article on this in a recent edition of the *Gazette* ( 12.09.2008) . Also to realise that ultimately we are not in control of our lives and circumstances; that we are in God's hands and his faithful love..... There is our peace and our rest.

Finish with quotation from Luke 12: 15 - 34.

Vss. 32-34 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## CINQUAIN

**Christmas**

**Remembrance Time**

**Jesus Lord and Saviour**

**Born to comply, pray, heal, teach, love**

**And die**

**AD 2000**

With thanks to Derek Higgins for permission to reprint from "Selected Verse of William D" Vol. 2. Two volumes of "Verse, Doggerel, Poetry" are available from the author.

### **Mistletoe, mince pies and marzipan - some traditions of Christmas**

Mistletoe is the common name for a group of hemi-parasitic plants in the order Santalales that grow attached to and within the branches of a tree or shrub. (Not many people know that). The word mistletoe is of uncertain origin however it may be related to German Mist, for dung and Tang for branch, but Old English mistel was also used for basil. According to a custom of Christmas cheer, any two people who meet under a hanging of mistletoe are obliged to kiss. The custom is Scandinavian in origin. It is also traditional that each time this happens a berry is removed. The pundits tell us that this year mistletoe is in plentiful supply so there will be lots of opportunities for spreading some happiness around this Christmas.

Mince pies. The origins of the mince pie begins with the medieval pastry, chewette which was either fried or baked. The "chewette" actually contained liver or chopped meat mixed with boiled eggs and ginger. Dried fruit and sweet ingredients would be added to the chewette's filling for variety. By the 16th century mince' or shred pie was considered a Christmas speciality, but in the 17th century, Oliver

Cromwell made the eating of mince pies on Christmas Day illegal. (This law is still on the U.K. statute books (not many people know that))

The name 'mincemeat' comes from the original recipe. Up to the Victorian era the mince (meat) pie would actually have been a spiced meat pie with some dried fruit. Today the only remnant of the original meat is the inclusion of suet. Typically fillings today consist entirely of fruit-based mincemeat containing dried fruit such as raisins, currants, glace cherries, apricot, candied peel; spices such as cinnamon or nutmeg; nuts such as walnuts or chopped almonds; suet; and some kind of alcohol, usually either brandy or rum. Mince pies are suitable for vegetarians only if the suet is replaced by vegetable fat.

Marzipan. Stollen is a bread-like cake traditionally made in Germany, usually eaten during the Christmas season as Weihnachtsstollen or Christstollen. Stollen is a fruitcake made with yeast, water and flour, and usually dried citrus peel, dried fruit, almonds, and spices such as cardamom and cinnamon; the dough is quite low in sugar. The finished cake is sprinkled with icing sugar. Sometimes there will also be a filling of marzipan running through the centre. The shape of the cake was originally meant to represent the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes, and was one of a number of baked goods created to represent aspects of the Crucifixion: the pretzel represented Jesus' bonds, and the (hole-less) doughnut represented the sponge given to Jesus on the cross. (Not many people know this)

Yule log. A Yule log is a large log which is burned in the hearth as a part of traditional Yule or Christmas celebrations in some cultures. It can be a part of the Winter Solstice festival or the Twelve Days of Christmas, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or Twelfth Night. The expression "Yule log" has also come to refer to log-shaped Christmas cakes, also known as "chocolate logs" or "Bûche de Noël". (A lot of people know this)

## **News digest**

Irish Times - 26 November 2008

Warning on church finances!

Economic challenges facing Dublin's Catholic Archdiocese were "quite dramatic" due to the current turmoil in finances world-wide and the crash of Ireland's property market, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has said: This news digest item was elaborated upon on page 7 of the newspaper.

As the economic downturn affects people and churches of all denominations, even people in Kiltarnan parish, it is important that we continue to maintain our levels of financial support to the parish - and where possible to make some increase, however small. The parish accounts for 2008 will close on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Parishioners who contribute through the envelope scheme or by annual sustentation are asked to ensure that your contributions reach the parish treasurer before this date.

As we set out into 2009 the continued financial support by all parishioners is vital to the parish's ministry and mission. Three main methods of supporting the parish finances are:

By the envelope scheme - envelope boxes are currently being prepared for 2009. You can still give your name to the rector. This type of giving suits people who attend churches on most Sundays.

By standing order - bank details are as follows:

Kiltarnan Parochial Account

Bank: Bank of Ireland

College Green  
Dublin 2  
Sort Code: 90-00-17  
Account no. 16306936

By annual sustentation - a cheque made payable to Kilternan Parish which may be left on the church collection plate or sent to the parish treasurer (Ann O'Neill) at 23, Glencairn Avenue, The Gallops, Leopardstown, Dublin 18.

Church plate collections are obviously very welcome and play their part in the church's finances. However, monies given on the church plate cannot be attributed to a particular donor and so no tax return can be sought in respect thereof. Amounts of €250 and over given under methods 1, 2 or 3 above enables the parish to reclaim 40% or more depending on tax levels from "PAYE parishioners" . "Self-employed parishioners" can claim tax benefits on amounts of €250 and over given to the parish and might consider increasing your level of giving by the amount you can claim back!?

As we give thanks for your generosity in the past we look to your continued support in and for the future. David.

### **Parish registers:**

Holy Baptism. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October, Holly Sarah Eileen, daughter of Donald and Eileen Larkin. We pray God's blessing on her as she begins her Christian journey.

Holy Matrimony. On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, William Walsh and Deirdre McMahon.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November Jan de Bruijn and Linda Chambers.

We wish both these couples every happiness and God's blessing as they begin their married lives together.

Interment of ashes: On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Eileen Gill, daughter of the late Lt. Colonel Beadon.