



**2 Rossmore Road
Templeogue
Dublin 6w**

Parishioners

December 2019

Dear Parishioner and Neighbour

It's hard to believe that I am here nearly 3 months, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for the very kind and gracious welcome you have given to me and Perky (my doggie).

I am immensely looking forward to my first Christmas here with you in St. Jude's. Christmas is always a special time for looking back at Christmases past, enjoying Christmas present and looking forward to new beginnings next year.

Since I was ordained 32 years ago I've celebrated Christmas in Cabra West, Baldonnell, Camp Shamrock in Lebanon, Pristina in Kosovo (minus 23 degrees and snow), Camp Clara in Liberia (plus 35 degrees and humid), Cathal Brugha Barracks in Rathmines, Holy Spirit in Ballyroan and Ss. Peter and Paul's in Balbriggan.

I want to thank Fr. Gregory for handing over such a well organised and spirit filled parish.

A Parish centre that is second to none and so well utilised. Thanks to all who use the facilities and look after it.

Fr. Gregory is so good at things that are not really part of my skills set and I hope his first Christmas in Leixlip is wonderful for him.

Thanks to our wonderful local schools for their help at the Christmas market, the various carol services and of course our own Parish Penance & Carol Service. Also to all who help out in any capacity to make our parish the inclusive and I hope happy place that I believe it to be.

Thank you to you all who contribute time, talent, finance and prayerful support to St. Jude's all of which helps us to keep the Christmas faith alive and well.

Welcome to any visitors who have come home for Christmas and I hope your stay is wonderful and you get a chance to catch up with friends and family when you are home. Welcome to any of you have moved into the parish over the past year and I hope you feel part of our community. We congratulate the children who were baptised, made their 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation in our church over the year. To those who got married during the year our heartiest congratulations on your first Christmas as a married couple. 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. With every good wish and blessing to you and your families and friends.

Fr. Brendan.

I'll leave you with a Tale of Two Christmases by Jim Smith.



A Secular Christmas Poem

C is for Credit Cards that make buying a breeze.
H is for your Headache when your cards are seized.
R is for Remembering everyone on your list.
I is for feeling Insulted when your gifts are dissed.
S is for feeling Stressed when you're on the fly.
T is for the Truckloads of presents that you buy.
M is for your Massive debt that soars into the sky.
A is for the Awful feeling that you've gone astray.
S is for your Sorrow and the tears you'll shed today.

A More Religious Christmas Poem

C is for the Christ child lying in a manger.
H is for the Holy One who saved us all from danger.
R is to Remember Him who died that we may live.
I is to Inspire us that we may always give.
S is for joyful Songs and sacred hymns that praise.
T is to Thank the Lord for showing us the way.
M is for the Miracles that bless us each day.
A is for the Almighty who always puts us first.
S is for the Shepherd who guides us on earth.