

# Parent's Page

## 1 Corinthians 13 - A Christmas Version.

If I decorate my house perfectly with colourful tinsel, Strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, But do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.  
If I slave away in the Kitchen, Baking dozens of Christmas cakes, Preparing fancy meals, And arranging a beautiful prepared table at mealtimes: But do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.  
If I work at a soup kitchen, Sing carols in the nursing home, And give all that I have to charity: But do not show love to my family, It profits me nothing.  
If I trim the tree with shimmering angels And flashy snowflakes, Attend a load of Christmas parties, And sing in the Choir's chorus But do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.  
Love stops the cooking to hug the

child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the loved one. Love is kind, though stressed and tired.  
Love does not envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love does not shout at the kids to get out of the way, But is thankful they are there to be in the way.  
Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return; but rejoices in giving to those who cannot.  
Love bears all things, Believes all things, Hopes all things, and Endures all things. Love never fails.  
Video games will break, Pearl necklaces will be lost, Golf clubs will rust;  
But giving the gift of love will endure.  
For there are three things that will endure forever; faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is LOVE!



## The Christmas Crib



For many the Christmas decorations would be incomplete without a Nativity scene, depicting Mary and Joseph in the stable with the baby Jesus in a manger surrounded by assorted animals, and with the optional extras of the Magi, shepherds, singing angels and other culturally appropriate innovations. We have St Francis of Assisi to thank for the Nativity scenes we love so much today.  
The story goes that St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, central Italy, in an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ rather than upon secular materialism and gift giving.



Making a crib, if you don't already have one, and can be fun for all the family.  
For the stable, get a cardboard box and cut it out to shape.  
Then involve the children in colouring and cutting out stars which can be stuck on the background.  
The figures in the crib can be drawn, cut out and coloured or maybe dress up some toy figures that the children may have already. Maybe shred, or cut some paper to act as straw - get creative!

## PARISHES OF ATHY, NARRAGHMORE & MOONE



## DTIM NEWSLETTER

Family Resource Sheet  
for the  
Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion

December 2022



The final days before Christmas are really exciting. We are all looking forward to see what Santa might bring. We are looking forward to see what other presents we might receive from family and friends.

The name that Jesus was given before He was born is Emmanuel, which means God is with us. God is with us in as much as we are like God to those around us, showing kindness and love.

Christmas can also be a sad time for so many people. People who might not get their first choice from Santa, or people who may not have a somewhere nice to celebrate Christmas with their family.

In these last few days before Christmas let's take a few moments each day to say a prayer and spare a thought for those who might not be as lucky as we are. Is there anything else that you can do to help?

Don't forget, our family Christmas Liturgy on Christmas Eve at 5pm in Crookstown Church. This is a child centered, family friendly liturgy which is not mass. You are welcome to come along.

### Parish Team Contact Details

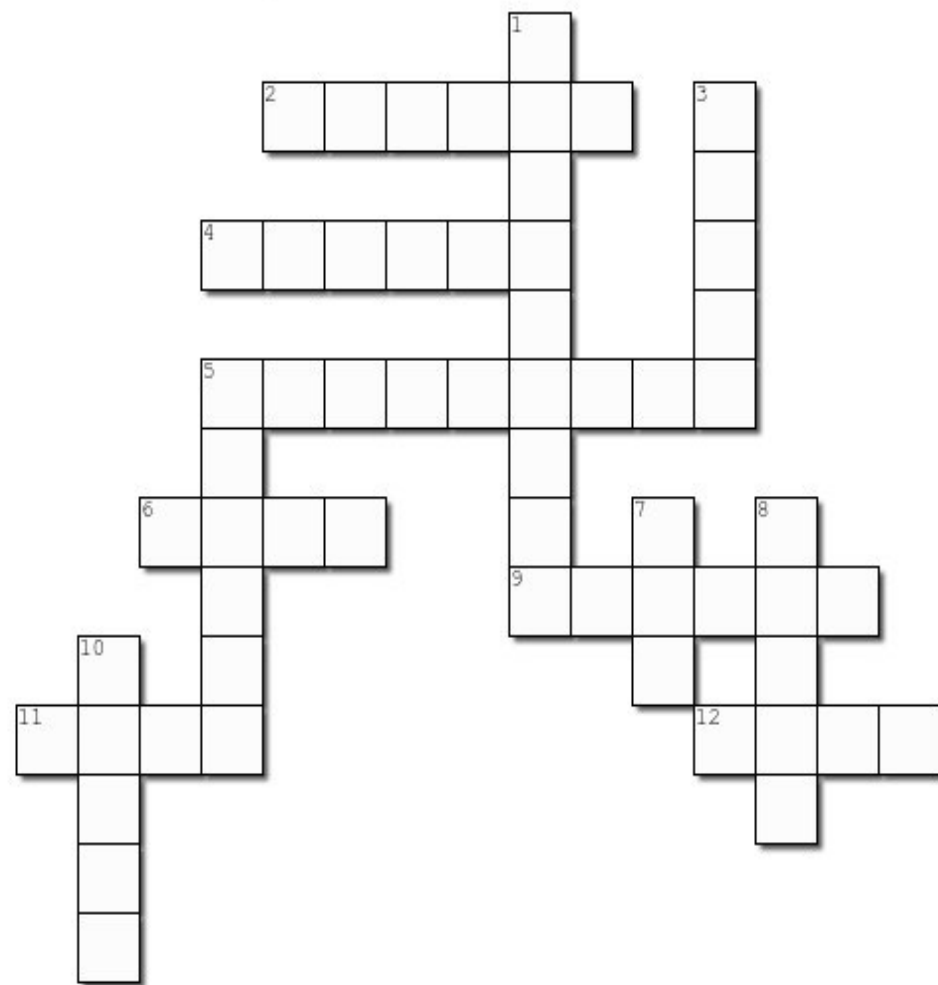
Fr Liam Rigney PP 087-2607377, Fr Tim Hannon 086-2356015, Fr Francis McCarthy 087-6978143, Natasha Geoghegan 087-6730300 - Parish Pastoral Worker with responsibility for Athy & Barrowhouse, Conor McCann 086-7905654 - Parish Pastoral Worker with responsibility for Narraghmore & Moone.



# ACTIVITY PAGE

## The Birth of Jesus

Complete the crossword puzzle below



### Across

2. Carried Mary on his back
4. Husband of Mary
5. They look after sheep
6. The mother of Jesus
9. Away in a...
11. These 3 men were very...
12. ...., Frankincense and Myrrh

### Down

1. The town where Jesus was born
3. Son of Mary & Son of GOD
5. Jesus was born in a ...
7. There was no room at the ...
8. The king who wanted to kill baby Jesus
10. They brought



At Mass we offer gifts of bread and wine to GOD. The reason that we do this is because we are saying to GOD, that we want to give HIM everything that we have and everything that we do.

We give them to the priest who takes them. He blesses them and he says the prayer of thanks to GOD called the Eucharistic Prayer.

After he has blessed them they are consecrated, this means made Holy for GOD.

Then GOD does something wonderful, HE turns the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, HIS Son. We don't understand how GOD does this, it is a mystery.

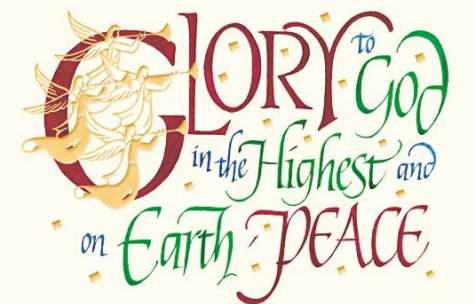
We believe that when we come to Holy Communion we are eating the living Body of Jesus, this is what the priest says when he gives us Holy Communion. He says: "The Body of Christ."

So bringing the gifts to the priest is really important because without we couldn't have mass.



### LEARNING THE MASS

When we gather at mass it is important that we are all able to participate as fully possible. Each month we will include some of the prayers and mass responses that you can practice with your child. When we gather, having said sorry and asked God and each other for forgiveness we then tell God how wonderful HE is and give HIM Glory. We do not pray this prayer during Advent but will sing it out loud on Christmas.



Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You,  
we give You thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.  
Lord JESUS CHRIST, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, JESUS CHRIST,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER  
Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women and blessed is  
the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of GOD, pray for us  
sinners now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

