



A Christmas Blessing Upon Our Animals

On this holy and joyous Christmas Day, we extend our hearts and prayers to the beloved creatures who share our homes and fill our lives with unconditional love.

May the warmth of the manger remind us of the comfort our animal companions provide, and may the twinkling lights of the season illuminate the gratitude we feel for their presence in our lives. May the spirit of Christmas touch the paws, wings, and hooves of every creature, filling their days with comfort, joy, and the tender care they deserve.

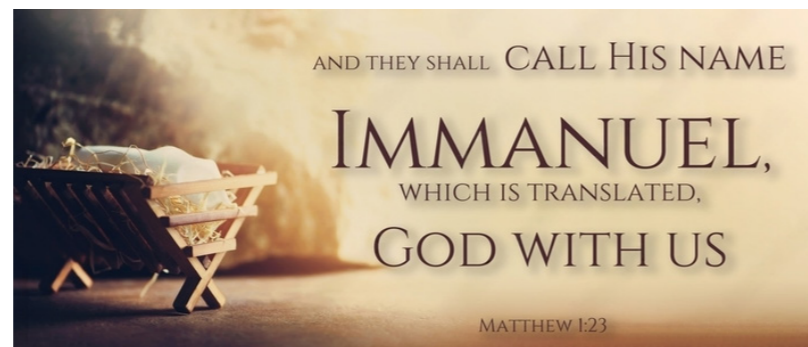
As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us also celebrate the unique bond we share with our animal friends. May they be surrounded by love, good health, and happiness throughout the coming year.

In the name of the Babe in the manger, we offer this Christmas blessing to our faithful and furry friends.

The year that was in Nenagh Parish...

*We said
'see you again soon', Fr Michael*

*We said
'welcome to Nenagh', Fr Lorcan*



A Christmas Reflection

The Christmas story is very simple: it tells of a birth, the birth of a first child to poor parents with an uncertain future. So what is it about the story that holds such appeal, that has allowed so many other stories and traditions to grow up around it? Why does it have such a place in our hearts?

Perhaps it has to do with the way it taps into our deepest longings, those things we desire that can help us cope with just about anything: love and trust.

There is much generous love in the story, and with it a sense of wonder that God could be so intimately involved with something so simple. Shepherds are amazed, wise men are humbled and a young woman treasures all these things in her heart. In the midst of the love we are all invited, just like the people in the story to trust that God is here and cares deeply as each of us deals with the joys and sorrows, the hopes and disappointments of everyday.

This story affirms that we all have a value and a unique dignity that lifts us up and empowers us to move beyond ourselves and to take the risk of reaching out to others, always trusting that God is present in the simple stuff.



Happy Christmas Nollaig Shona

Once Upon a Time at Christmas

In winter's hush, a sacred night unfolds,
Where stars adorn the sky in crowns of gold.
Beneath the moon's soft, guiding light,
A timeless tale weaves through the night.

In ancient whispers, the story is told,
Of shepherds and kings, their fates foretold.
A humble manger, a child so dear,
In nature's cradle, hope draws near.

The snow-kissed pines, a silent choir,
Their branches lift their hearts higher.
A blanket white, pure and divine,
Nature's hymn, a gift benign.

Through frost-kissed meadows, a path unfurls,
As timeless echoes dance with swirls.
Footsteps echo in the snowy glade,
A journey taken, promises made.

In crackling hearths and candle's glow,
A warmth transcends the winter's snow.
The yuletide joy, like embers aglow,
Ignites the spirit, a radiant show.

As Christmas morning dawns anew,
Nature's tapestry, a gift so true.
In whispers of the olden days,
A timeless message gently sways.

So, let this season's magic rise,
Inspirational hymns 'neath starlit skies.
With nature's grace, and echoes old,
May Christmas joy forever unfold.

Dear Friends,

On this Christmas Day we reflect on the birth of a baby boy some two thousand years ago in a faraway land. The child was born into extreme poverty with barely a roof over his head as he spent his first night on earth. Not only was his childhood marked by the impoverishment that was normal for so many in his community at the time, but his life would also be one of humility, devoid of any of the trappings of wealth.

The baby that was born into poverty in Bethlehem possessed something more valuable than any baubles or trinkets. His wealth was his message. His manifesto was one of love, peace, forgiveness and hope. This message which originated in the comparatively small geographical region around the Sea of Galilee in Judea, gave birth to the movement we know today as Christianity. While we know that the world into which Jesus was born was troubled, the impact of this one humble birth on two thousand years of history, is not possible to measure.

Today our world feels just as troubled as it must have appeared to those young parents who accepted the awesome responsibility of giving birth to, and raising, the Son of God. The fires of war burn in too many corners of our planet. The seeds of division that continue to be sown by political difference, toxic discourses, a disdain for the environment, and a hatred of 'the other', have brought many distressed parts of our world to the brink of despair.

While we open our homes and our hearts to those who continue to be displaced by war and climate change, it is clear that now, more than ever, we must embrace the message of the man who began his life as a child born into extreme poverty in that land that remains so troubled today. We need Jesus. We need his Word. We need his Message. We need to reevaluate our relationships with our fellow human beings, and with our planet.

Not everything is hopeless. All around us we see the green shoots that reveal how the message of Jesus continues to resonate in our troubled world. We see an open door to the stranger in need. We see many acts of compassion for those who have become lost in the world. We see formidable resistance to the forces of hatred and destruction. In our young people, we hear the loudness of their indignation as they seek to reverse the ongoing damage to our planet.

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a New Year in which we embrace the message of the man who started life as the Baby Jesus, with renewed vigour, assured by the enduring truth that God remains by our side during every moment of 2024.

God Bless,

Fr Pat, Fr Rixon and Fr Lorcan



A Blessing for the Christmas Tree in the Home

God of all creation,
we praise you for this tree
which brings beauty and memories
and the promise of life to our home.
May your blessing be upon
all who gather around this tree,
all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights.
We wait for the coming of the Christ,
the days of everlasting justice and of peace.
You are our God, living and reigning,
for ever and ever.
Amen.



**Čestit Božić
Veselé Vánoce
Häid jõule
Joyeux Noël
Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus**

**Linksmų šv. Kalėdų
Wesołych Świąt!
Crăciun fericit
Feliz Navidad
Беселого Різдва
and Merry Christmas to all our
Indian Friends**

For Absent Friends...

Recognising that not everyone can join us at home in Tipperary this Christmas, we understand the various reasons that may keep you away. Whether duty calls at work, health concerns hinder your travel, or the presence of little ones makes the journey challenging, we acknowledge that distance separates us. However, we want you to understand something crucial.

Even though physical miles may keep us apart, you reside prominently in our thoughts and hearts. Your absence is keenly felt, and nowhere is this more evident than during this season. We miss you constantly, and Christmas, in particular, magnifies our yearning for your company.

We are confident that, in due time, you will return. And when that joyous moment arrives, rest assured that warm embraces await you. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are enveloped in hope and the unwavering belief that the day of our reunion draws near.

Until then, please know that you are dearly missed, and our thoughts are a bridge that spans the distance between us. May the spirit of Christmas bring you comfort and anticipation for the moments we will share when we are together again.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and looking forward to the day we can celebrate in each other's company.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the heart and soul of our parish – our dedicated volunteers. Your unwavering commitment to the various ministries and ceremonies has not only kept our parish running smoothly but has also enriched the spiritual experience for everyone.

In the spirit of Christmas, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the countless hours you've devoted, the talents you've shared, and the love you've poured into every task. Your selflessness and generosity have made a significant impact on our parish family, creating a welcoming and nurturing environment for all.

As we come together to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us remember that it is your collective efforts that make the magic of Christmas come alive within our parish walls. Without each and every one of you, so much of what we hold dear and cherish would not be possible.

May the love and joy you've shared throughout the year be returned to you a hundredfold during this Christmas season.

Wishing you and your loved ones
a Blessed and Merry Christmas!



The Adoration of the Shepherds, Painted by Giorgione (1477-1510), National Gallery of Art, Washington DC

Táimid ag tnúth le fáilte a chur romhat i 2024

