

# Mullavilly Parish Church

## Parish Magazine

### Christmas 2006

A very happy Christmas and Blessed New Year to all our parishioners. The magazine takes a different format this month in order to utilise the publicity for our Christmas motto: "Jesus at the heart of the season."

There has been ever-increasing pressure each year to remove Jesus from Christmas. This pressure has not come from people of other faiths, but from a strong and vocal humanist grouping, who do not believe that religion should have any prominence or influence in society. Disguised as political correctness, it has led to the Winter Festival, Season's Greetings, and the banning of any public display of religious commitment.

This subtle secularisation of our society affects not only Christmas, but also the whole year. Churches are being discouraged from influence in education, healthcare, welfare and charities and government.

However, it is part and parcel of the Christian faith that it should permeate and influence everything that Christians do. If you are a Christian businessman, your faith will affect the ethos of your business. If you are a Christian farmer, your attitude to the environment and creation will be influenced by your beliefs. If you are a parent, a teacher, a police officer, everything you say and do will be under-girded by the love of Christ.

Jesus is at the heart of our lives, not just a peripheral that can be set aside at will. Getting this right can make a huge difference to our lives. Having Jesus at the heart of Christmas will give us a different perspective on the season. Instead of stressing the shopping, the drunken parties, the family conflict and the pressure to spend money, the focus is on love, joy, worship and the peace which comes from knowing that God himself has walked among us and that, through the Holy Spirit, He is still with us today. May Jesus be at the heart of your Christmas.

## Dates for December & January

### November:

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 11:15am Holy Communion in Rathowen  
Tues 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Craft Fair in Parish Centre  
29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Rector at Diocesan conference, Fermanagh

### December

- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Boy's Club Party  
Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Senior's Christmas lunch  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> MU Dinner at Esther's  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 5pm Sunday School Party  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 8pm Badminton Chinese Christmas Party

## CHRISTMAS EVE

9:30am	Holy Communion
11:00am	Nativity Service
7:00pm	Carol Service
11:15pm	Midnight Communion

## CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am	Holy Communion
10:00am	Holy Communion suitable for families

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

9:30am	Holy Communion
11:00am	Morning Prayer
11:30pm	Watchnight Service
NB: No service at 7pm	

### January

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> 8pm Select Vestry  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> 10:30am Ramblin' Rose  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm Over 55  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Church21 with Bishop Clarke

## Sharing Christmas

As in previous years, we will participate in two schemes to help others at Christmas time. At the front, you will find a Christmas Tree with labels attached. These labels bear the name and age of a child within the area covered by the Craigavon branch of the NSPCC. Take a label and buy a suitable gift that you then leave under the tree with the label attached.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, you can also place unwrapped gifts under the tree at the front of the church. These gifts will then be given to the Salvation Army/St Vincent de Paul Appeal. Don't forget to leave gifts for teenagers and the elderly. Food items and sweets will be distributed to our own parishioners.

## Church21

A special meeting has been organised with our facilitator, Bishop Ken Clarke, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This will be an important meeting for the Select Vestry, all leaders of organisations and groups, anyone involved in worship and anyone else who would like to have an input.

## 50 Years of Service

At the end of November, the parish was able to recognise the commitment of Leonard Wilson to the choir. Leonard started in the choir when he was 12 and has 50 years of continuous service. This is a strong family tradition. Leonard's mother, Elsie, was in the choir until her health failed and his two daughters, Nicola and Judith, also have long service. Well done!

The choir provided an excellent evening of entertainment for the MU Visitors' Night. We have a very special choir and organist and they should be greatly cherished. If anyone feels that they could add their voice to the choir, please come forward and don't be shy!! We would particularly welcome enquiries from the male community!

Date	Flowers	Crèche	Readers	Notes
<b>Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Jean Hawthorne	Nicola Wilson Mandy Wright	Natalie Magowan	11am Holy Communion
<b>Dec 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Carol Thompson	Elaine Bleakney Jane English	Carolyn Mayes	
<b>Dec 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Edith McConville	Susan Hannam Wendy Hazley	Helen McClenaghan	11am Holy Communion
<b>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Decorations			11am Family Service <i>other services on dates page</i>
<b>Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Christmas Decorations	Gwen Kane Julie Magowan	Rebecca Milne	No evening service 11:30pm Watchnight
<b>Jan 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Sally Ann Black	Pauline King Jacqui Moore	Rosemary Neill	11am Holy Communion
<b>Jan 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Mandy Wright			11am Family Service
<b>Jan 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Heather Harper	Joanne Milligan Karen McClelland	Adam Pearson	11am Holy Communion
<b>Jan 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Doreen Trimble	Christine Neill Elaine Neill	Elaine Bleakney	
<b>Feb 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Gwen Kane	Yvonne Neill Gladys Shortt	Robert Chapman	11am Holy Communion

## From the Registers

Burial

14<sup>th</sup> November, Fred Williamson, Brackagh

## Baptism Certificates

December: Dale Garner (1<sup>st</sup>); Callum Crawford (1<sup>st</sup>); Alexander Burnett (1<sup>st</sup>); Rebekah Shortt (2<sup>nd</sup>); Ciara Whalley (2<sup>nd</sup>); Ross Stewart (2<sup>nd</sup>); Tabitha Pentland (3<sup>rd</sup>); Katie McCallen (4<sup>th</sup>); Luke Milligan (4<sup>th</sup>)

January: Joshua Bennett (1<sup>st</sup>);

## Family Service Teas

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Wendy Hazley, Mandy Close, Judith Pentland, Geraldine Thompson

January 14<sup>th</sup>: Valerie Doyle, Gladys Shortt, Julie and Natalie Magowan

*That was the true light, which lightest every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him and the world knew him not. He came unto his own and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

*The Gospel according to St John. 1:9-12  
(King James Version)*

## Rectory Update

The stud walls are going up and the electrician and plumber are expected to start their first fix as I write. Plastering and woodwork should follow. It's exciting to see things being put back together after all the destruction and demolition. It is now possible to visualise the finished house and start thinking about where the furniture should go! The drive, which had no foundation, has now almost totally disappeared and the garden is a mess. We're certainly looking forward to the Spring. (That's the season, not the mucky pool in the lawn).

## Senior Dinner

The very popular Christmas lunch is quite early this year – December 7<sup>th</sup>. The cost is £6 and guests should be seated at 1pm. If anyone would like to attend, please book with Alan and Margaret as soon as possible on 3884 0663. If you would like transport, cars and drivers are available so please let us know.

If you are not quite into the "senior" category, but would like to help preparing, serving or clearing up you would be very welcome. Ask Alan for details.

## The Archbishop

The Archbishop has sent us a letter of thanks for contributing to his retirement present in October. He officially retires on December 31<sup>st</sup> and will be celebrating Holy Communion in the Cathedral that afternoon. (3:15pm) If you would like to attend, please let the rector know. We wish him every blessing in his future home in Hillsborough.

The new Archbishop will be appointed quite quickly. The Church Constitution states that the post must be filled by one of the 11 remaining bishops and the appointment is by a vote of those same 11 bishops. We remember all those involved in our prayers throughout January.

## Sunday School Party

The annual party will be held on the Wednesday before Christmas (20<sup>th</sup>) in the Parish Centre. This will follow a traditional pattern using the two rooms for the junior and senior classes. Snacks and drinks will be served at about 6:30 and Santa Claus will be appearing about 6:45.

In order to leave the teachers free to supervise the games etc, it would be a great help if some parents could volunteer to look after the food.

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This magazine and photos of events are available on our website. Please visit us there and download anything you like!

Goodwill and Peace to All