

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DEVINE

*It is popular to see Christmas being a day for children. God does not see it so. He meant Christmas to be for all. He did not see Jesus as the Saviour of children. He saw Him as being the Saviour of all - children and adults alike*

*Christmas is the day when the Lord shared his birthday with us, giving each of us a kind of 'second birthday' each year, a day on which we give something to others, even as he gave us the promise of eternal life. There will be a great deal of giving presents to others this Christmas, a sign of the need to be generous to others at this time of the year. Will we be equally generous to the person who inspired all that spirit of giving?*

*My Christmas hope for each of you is firstly to pray that all of you have taken the steps to be united to God in your daily living and secondly is to ask each of you to become re-united to a person who has become lost to you in the course of 1995.*

### **Christmas in Heaven**

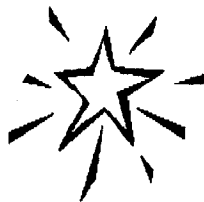
I'm wondering what Christmas in Heaven is like  
as I grieve alone and pray,  
longing for one who has gone before  
to spend Christmas in Heaven today.

And so in my dreams, I wander far  
From the scenes and sounds of earth  
'Till I catch the strains of the heavenly choir  
As they sing of the Christ Child's birth.

The Angels and Saints I vision there  
as they join in the festal gay,  
and there 'mid the throng is my loved one  
spending Christmas in Heaven today.


There's joy in the faith that teaches,  
when our life's work here is done,  
of a place in Heaven awaiting,  
and the crown we worked for is won.

In our grief may we learn well the lesson  
so to work and suffer and pray,  
as to merit the joys of our loved one  
and to spend Christmas together some day.



*Sung Response to this week's Responsorial Psalm:  
"Open the gates! Let the great king come in"*

# Holy Family Mossend



**Let the message of Christ find a home with you.**

24th December 1995 Year (A) - Fourth Sunday of Advent

### **"A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL"**

*"Once again we are preparing to celebrate the joy of Christmas, family by family and together as the family of Holy Family parish. As we do so, may I express my sincerest thanks for the support which you have given to me since coming here on 20th September. I wish you all every blessing during this coming new year of 1996. May Our Lord and His Blessed Mother bring you and all your families every peace and happiness and may they both guide and help us in our work of building up the kingdom of God here in Holy Family parish. I will be offering up my three Masses on Christmas day for all parishioners. God bless each and every one of you.*

*Fr. Grant*

# HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

## *Feast of the Birth of Our Lord*

**First Mass of Christmas:** Sunday at 11.30pm. There is no Carol Service as such. Carols will be incorporated into the Mass which begins with the Entrance Procession at **11.30pm** (N.B. not Midnight).

**Christmas Day Masses:** 10.00am and 12.00noon

**Boxing Day:** 11.00am  
**Wednesday - Saturday:** 9.30am

## *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph*

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 6.00pm  
**Sunday 31st December:** 10.00am & 12.00 noon

## *Feast of Mary, Mother of the Lord*

**New Year's Day:** 11.00am  
**2nd January:** 11.00am  
**Wednesday - Saturday:** 9.30am

**NEXT SUNDAY** is the Feast of the Holy Family and our patronal feast. For this reason Bishop Devine has asked to celebrate the 12.00noon Mass during which all those parents who have had a child baptised within the past year are invited to come forward for a special blessing for themselves and their babies.

**11.00am. MASS** Please note Mass times on Boxing Day and New Year's day

**WELCOME HOME** This weekend we welcome back to the parish all those who have been studying or working away from home and who have come back to spend Christmas with their families. Among them is Fr. Clarence Gallagher S.J. who has very kindly offered to help out with Masses during his holidays.

**NO COMMUNION UNDER BOTH SPECIES** During the Christmas holidays only the sacred host will be distributed at the weekday Masses.

**CRIB DONATIONS** as you visit the crib over the next few weeks please remember that there is a box provided for all those who may wish to donate towards the St. Margaret of Scotland Adoption Society

**SENIOR CITIZENS DINNER** on Saturday 20th January 1996 at 2.30pm. All Senior Citizens of the parish are cordially invited. Those wishing to attend should complete the tear off slip on forms available in the church porch.

**FOLK GROUP** Next rehearsal on Wednesday 3rd January 8.00pm for the following Saturday night, 6th January. Anyone interested in joining them, please come along.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** is now due. May I thank you all very sincerely for your contributions which you have given so generously throughout the year. Those who have taken a covenant out with the parish should remember to use their Christmas collection envelope and put it into the normal offertory basket. Those without envelopes please put in a little extra into the same basket.

**NEW CHALICES** With money given to me by the C.M.S. as profit from their cabarets, I have purchased 6 chalices specially designed for the distribution of Our Lord's Precious Blood at Masses where there is Holy Communion under both species. These will be used for the first time at Midnight Mass.

**NO CONFESSIONS DURING CHRISTMASTIDE** Advent is the time for reconciliation, Christmas, the time for joyous celebration. During Christmastide, (i.e. until after 8th January) there will be no confessions timetabled. However, confessions may be heard on request.

**THURSDAY** is the **Feast of the Holy Innocents** a day when we might remember in a special way those innocents who are aborted every day of the year in our country. We pray that the Lord will provide them the welcome which mankind has denied them. Mass on Thursday will be offered for the repeal of the Abortion Laws in existence in our country.

**CHRISTMAS HYMN SHEETS** For the next few weeks we will use the special Service sheet for Midnight Mass in place of the hymn books.

**CHURCH HEATING PROBLEMS** seem at long last to have been resolved. Sorry for all the discomfort caused over the past few weeks.

**NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY** next week. The next Children's Liturgy will be at 12.00 Mass on Sunday 7th January (*The Epiphany*)

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 8th January

**PRAYER OF FAITHFUL** The response during Christmastide will be  
*Reader: 'Son of Mary' All: 'Hear our Prayer'*