

MORE NEWS



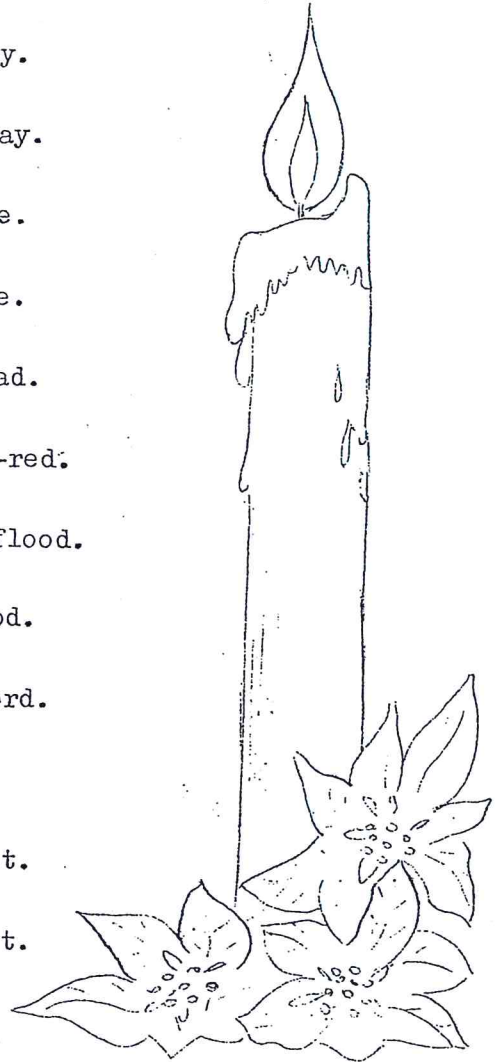
ST THOMAS MORE PARISH
DECEMBER 1988

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE from FATHER BROWNE

MAY GOD THE FATHER BLESS YOU
MAY GOD THE SON GIVE YOU HIS JOY
MAY GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT ENLIGHTEN YOU
MAY GOD PROTECT YOU FROM HARM AND GRANT YOU SALVATION
MAY HE SHINE ON YOUR HEART AND LEAD YOU TO ETERNAL LIFE

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Mary the dawn
but Christ the perfect day.
Mary the gate
but Christ the heavenly way.
Mary the root
but Christ the mystic vine.
Mary the grape
but Christ the sacred wine.
Mary the cornsheaf
but Christ the living bread.
Mary the rose tree
but Christ the rose blood-red.
Mary the fount
but Christ the cleansing flood.
Mary the chalice
but Christ the saving blood.
Mary the temple
but Christ the temple's Lord.
Mary the shrine
but Christ its God adored.
Mary the beacon
but Christ the haven's rest.
Mary the mirror
but Christ the vision blest.



SYNOD UPDATE

by Christine Roberts

The first group of Small Group Meetings is now over and the recommendations and Group Responses have been sent in to the Synod Office.

There have been a lot of lively discussions, an opportunity to get to know other parishioners better, and some interesting points have been raised.

A parish worker in each Parish rated highly on the list of recommendations. There was also quite a number of people concerned about education, from how money is spent in Catholic Schools to education for adults and resources to help people involved in lay ministries.

Communication seems to be a problem, both at Diocesan and Parish level. There are many centres of learning throughout the Diocese, but not enough publicity about them. Others felt that the 'Church' needed to be more accepting of people with special needs and to cater for them; i.e. divorced, single, youth, etc.

Some felt the ministry of deacon should be encouraged and still others felt we should have women deacons.

There was concern about apathy and lack of commitment.

The Parish issues included such things as the need for a Parish Council, a Parish Centre, a pastoral worker, better communication, hospitality, a need to affirm those people involved in the running of the Parish, i.e. children's liturgy teachers, gardeners, cleaners, musicians and all those invaluable helpers.

Much more was discussed and will be discussed as the issues find their level of priority. In March - May the second series of discussions will be held. It will be very interesting to see what topics have arisen throughout the Diocese.

Thank you to all the parishioners who have taken part in these discussions and thank you to those who led or recorded for the groups.

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For a further article on Synod of the Laity, see Page 9.

A Parishioner Overseas

Foreign service work has always been of interest to me. When at Rosmini College I became involved with the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation's fund raising in New Zealand. This year, in early June, Stephen Tindall was given the opportunity to speak to the Glenfield parishioners about the Alay-Bahay foundation - an organisation concerned with the young in the Philippines.

I took the opportunity to be engaged with a Catholic organised charity foundation and through Steve Tindall, became actively involved to the point that I am now travelling to the Philippines to assist with the Foundation's operations in Manila.

The objective of my trip can no better be described than the wording of my operating programme. I quote:

"Exposure and immersion of a New Zealand adolescent in a third world reality."

My perceptions of what I will find there, can only be a part of what is the reality of the Philippines.

I hope to convey a new and better understanding of the Foundation's operations to our parishioners after I have discovered, experienced and aided, however small, in the development of this different world.

Matthew Bovelander

We look forward to a follow-up report from Matthew on his return.

Editor

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The MORE NEWS team of CLARE RUSSELL, CAROL MOGRIDGE, KEVIN and MOYA HOCQUARD thank all our contributors for their support during the year, helping us to make this a truly parish magazine. We wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas.



Memo From Your Child

1. Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for. I'm only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.
3. Don't let me form bad habits, I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
4. Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly big.
5. Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.
6. Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.
7. Don't be upset when I say "I hate you". It isn't you I hate, but your power to thwart me.
8. Don't protect me from consequences. I need to learn the painful way sometimes.
9. Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. I am quite capable of trading on them.
10. Don't nag. If you do I will have to protect myself by appearing deaf.
11. Don't make rash promises. Remember I feel badly let down when promises are broken.
12. Don't forget that I can't explain myself as well as I should like. That is why I am not always very accurate.
13. Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
14. Don't be inconsistent. That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.
15. Don't put me off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.

16. Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real to me and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
17. Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
18. Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of understanding and love, but I don't need to tell you that, do I?

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Plant Legends and Mary

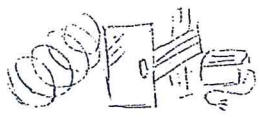
The sage plant is silver like olive foliage. It grows wild on the high hills of Galilee, and it's cultivated in gardens of Christians, Jews and Arabs, for it is another of the ancient sacred herbs. It's especially associated with the Holy Family, and especially with Mary and Holy Mother. The Arabs call sage "Mirriama" - which is both the Arabic and the Hebrew form of the name Mary.

Sage can be seen in big bunches on the walls of Galilee houses, where it's much used as a strengthening tea. It's also used for weddings, christenings and burials. Mary used and loved sage.

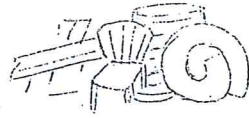
Mary had another favourite herb, rosemary. The flowers of this favoured plant were once white but they acquired the blue of Mary's heavenly colour because she dried her washing - her own gowns and the infant clothes of Jesus - on the rosemary bushes.

There is yet another legend about Mary and a plant; this time the henna bush. The leaves and berries of henna give a tint and brightener for the hair which is in very popular use in Galilee. It is said that Mary was preparing henna for her hair at the time that she heard the news that Christ had been taken to be crucified.

In Mary's anguish she flung the henna water mixture against the wall of her house and cried out that as long as the henna stain remained she would never again brighten her hair with that shrub. Henna stains forever, and other women of Galilee therefore ceased to use henna for their hair. But walls turn to dust with time and with them a stain of henna, and so women once again began to henna their hair.



OFF THE LINE



One of the areas of greatest conflict in human beings comes to the fore over an unexpected subject - no, not politics, religion or socio-economic status, it's rubbish.

For sheer entertainment value, put your pile of inorganic rubbish out on the verge at the appropriate time, settle yourself into a comfy spot near a window overlooking the street, and watch! For days on end, cars cruise the streets at a snail's pace, analysing and assessing, helping themselves to gems from yours and your neighbours' piles. Occasionally, the front door bell rings, and someone actually asks you for your bed/mattress or chairs.

To be a more active participant, pop along to a flea market. There it all is - rows and rows of other people's rubbish, surrounded by crowds of people, looking over, picking up, discarding, bargaining for, and buying. Garage sales have their own followers, as, list in hand, they drive from one to another.

The old saying "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is never more true than in these situations.

"All that glitters is not gold" holds no sway with the younger ones, as they beseech and bargain for trinkets and trash. The satisfaction seems to come from getting a bargain, or are we really part "womblés", with an urge to recycle all our lives?

And are not women the greatest hoarders? Wedding dresses still in the wardrobe twenty years later, when even if the waistline did allow its use, it would be so horribly out of fashion, we wouldn't be caught dead in it! The eldest child's first lock of hair, baby's first shoes, and photos! The list goes on - all too precious to throw away.

One of the most effective ways I know to have a good clear out, is to have a baby. Bedrooms to shift around, drawers to be emptied and storage space to be found! But if that's not on this year, or ever again, it will just have to be sheer determination as you prepare for another Christmas, and another New Year.

Perhaps it is this very clinging to our worldly possessions that makes us a slave to all the trappings associated with Christmas. Struggle as we will to come closer to the reality of this special time, tradition seems to dictate that we go through the same performance each year. Our "Mary" hearts are overwhelmed by our "Martha" minds. We clear out some rubbish, and it seems to fill up with a fresh lot.

We humans seem to need a little glitter and glamour in our lives. Hope for us will always lie in being able to see through it, and find the deeper meaning to our lives. May we all find it in Jesus, and baby born in a cow shed, and his holy mother, this Christmas.

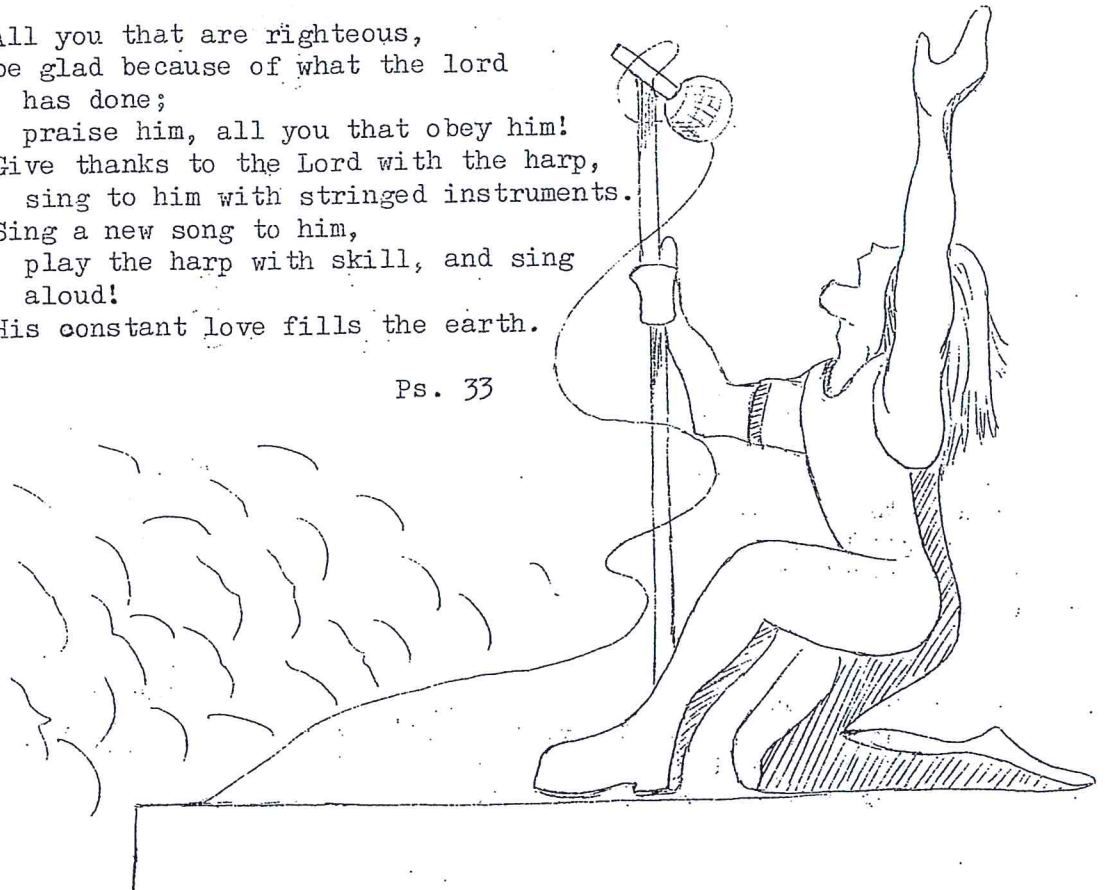
Clare Russell

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A SONG OF PRAISE

All you that are righteous,
be glad because of what the Lord
has done;
praise him, all you that obey him!
Give thanks to the Lord with the harp,
sing to him with stringed instruments.
Sing a new song to him,
play the harp with skill, and sing
aloud!
His constant love fills the earth.

Ps. 33



SYNOD OF THE LAITY

An Extract from 'Zealandia', in an interview with Archbishop Jan Schotte.

There is room for movements and groups within the parish, and that is why the Synod used the expression, 'the community of communities'.

"But it can be used wrongly. It can mean, 'Let's split the parish up because we don't believe in it any more. We're going to form our little community where we will be totally church, and then we'll decide whether we will also participate in something within the territorial bounds of the parish'.

COMMUNITY

"The community of communities means that everyone who's a member of a small community is also a totally committed member of the community which is the parish. It's a total interaction, not a federation.

"The parish remains this deep, this exceptionally suitable image of what the Church is about: to create community around the Eucharist, around Jesus Christ and his message. And to show that we can do this we have to break out of our little groups - good as they may be and, in Latin America, Africa and the Philippines necessary as they are because there the parish is so enormous.

"Yet even in those areas people relate to the parish as the larger community which embraces all the aspects of being Church."

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THE LEAST SUCCESSFUL EQUAL PAY ADVERTISEMENT

In 1976 the European Economic Community pointed out to the Irish Government that it had not yet implemented the agreed sex equality legislation. The Dublin Government immediately advertised for an equal pay enforcement officer. The advertisement offered different salary scales for men and women.

Kids' Page

Hi Everyone!

Shortly you will all be breaking up from school, and waiting impatiently for Christmas. To help you keep busy while you are waiting, here is a Jesse Tree for you to make. The Jesse Tree commemorates the Old Testament preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

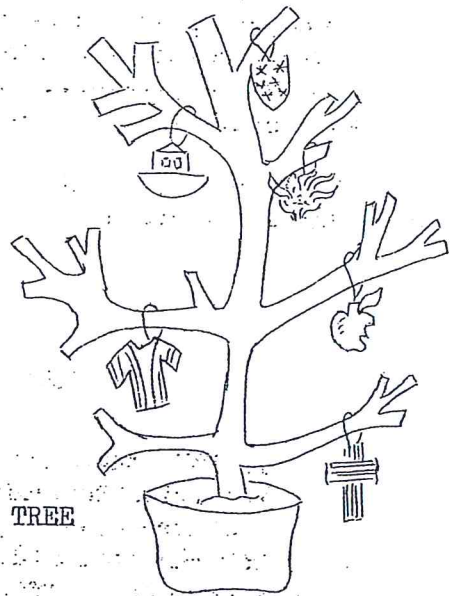
The Jesse Tree gets its name from Jesse, the father of David; the tree is the symbol of life or growth and the expression of the ancestry of an individual. Have fun, and a happy and holy Christmas Day.

Materials:

Any well-shaped dead branch, or a piece of driftwood with branches and hollows. Place in a can or tub of sand, making sure the base is stable.

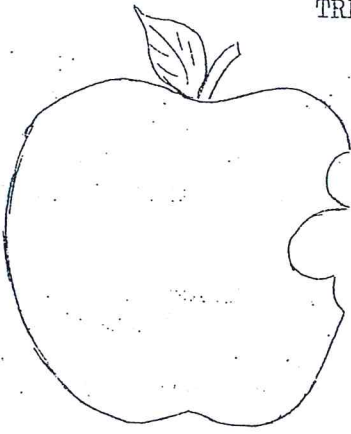
Tracing paper and card to trace off the Tree Emblems, or you may like to just colour and cut them from the opposite page and stick them onto light-weight card.

Hang from the tree by making a hole at the top of each emblem and threading through some string.

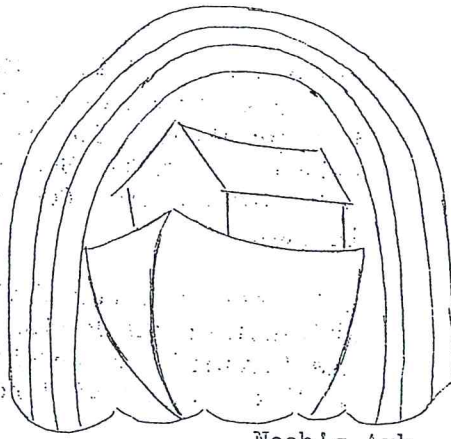


JESSE TREE

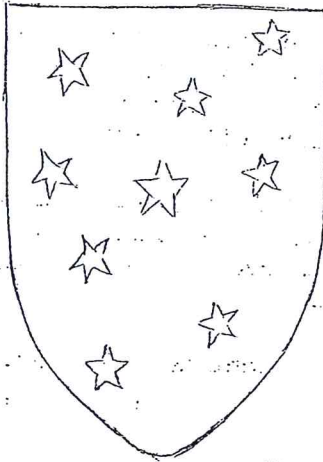
TREE EMBLEMS



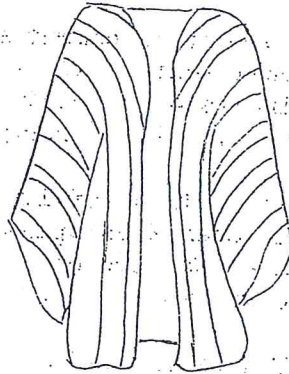
Adam
and
Eve



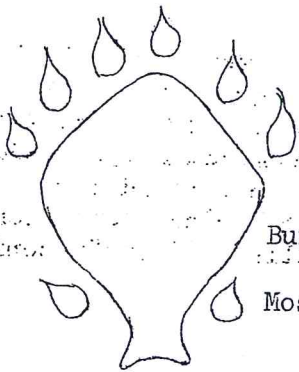
Noah's Ark



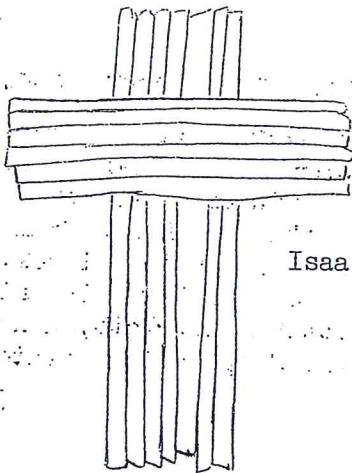
Abraham
(blue
shield
white
stars)



Joseph's
coat



Burning
bush -
Moses' call



Isaac

'HERESAY'

It is a fact of life that if one comes up with a useful idea, then the expectation of everyone else is the originator puts the idea into practice. The cynics amongst us can therefore be forgiven for smirking when the Sunday news sheet suggested the Synod meetings' call for a Parish Council be translated to deed. Nominations were invited.

All of us must now wonder if those nominations will be forthcoming and whether the Parish Priest can take the odd moment to retire to his favourite chair with his up-dated copy of "Men in Black" or dwell on how he will now best pursue his pastoral duties.

Let's face it, our bluff has been called.

The sort of commitment the Synod discussions led to was self-commitment. When we reflect what the Church must do, the bottom line is - we are the Church, so each and everyone of us has got to do it. It is enough to take the smirk off a cynic's face!

Still, think of it this way: someone might stand on a "Reinstate the 8 am Mass" platform. Better still, several might put their names forward on the basis we will serve our fellow parishioners to the best of our limited ability.

If that happens the Synod will have succeeded already.

'Thomas'

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JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW!

The most exciting version of the Bible was printed in 1631 by Robert Barker and Martin Lucas, the King's printers at London. It contained several mistakes, but one was inspired - the word 'not' was omitted from the Seventh Commandment and enjoined its readers, on the highest authority, to commit adultery. Fearing the popularity with which this might be received in remote country districts, King Charles I called all 1,000 copies back in and fined the printers £3,000.

DIOCESAN PICNIC

At the recently held Diocesan Picnic day the Baker family of Bayville were there to join the celebrations. Here are Susan's impressions.

I am a Catholic, and each Sunday at Mass I say "...I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church ...". On the feast of Christ the King I experienced what Catholic is. The word 'Catholic' means 'universal' and there, at Alexandra Park Raceway, were all the nations of the Diocese of Auckland, gathered to celebrate 150 years of Catholicism in New Zealand.

The day started at 11 am with a Maori Powhiri. As this took an hour the advertised Welcome to all Nations had to be left out. The celebration of the Eucharist began at midday with Bishop Denis Browne and many of the priests of the Diocese con-celebrating. Many people had English as a second language and some had no English at all, so when we sang the Credo in Latin I was reminded of a not-so-distant time, when Latin was the universal language of the Church and maintained for so long just so that in Liturgy, there was no language barrier.

Time for our picnic lunch shortly after 2 pm. The entertainment began as we finished our sandwiches and we were drawn to the music and dancing of a colourful group of Hungarian Kola dancers. We heard the sound of drums and, to our dismay realised that four groups were performing, singing or dancing simultaneously.

We left the Hungarian balalikas and moved to the Cook Islanders' drums. Then to the Fijians, where the jovial leader exhorted the crowd to greet him in Fijian. The party spirit was truly there as we called 'Bula' to him. The Vietnamese group was one of the smallest and the most recently arrived nation but we marvelled at the courage of these gentle, gracious people who, along with the Hungarians, have fled from oppression.

Then onto a vigorous group of Irish dancers. As my family is descended from the first Irish settlers, I wanted my three children to realise and share in the richness of our heritage. As we cheered a group of Samoans, a Samoan lady clasped me excitedly and said "we are sisters, isn't it great?" and I promptly kissed her, knowing it to be true. I shared the holding and soothing of a four-week

old Malysian baby for the two tired young parents. I asked a young man in costume what nationality he represented. He had no English so tried German. I had no German so tried French. We could find no common language so just laughed and shook hands and he said "Sister" and I replied "Brother".

Our parish was there. The Munoz family from Bayview was on the stage with the Chilean dancers, and one of the clowns definitely resembled a senior altar server.

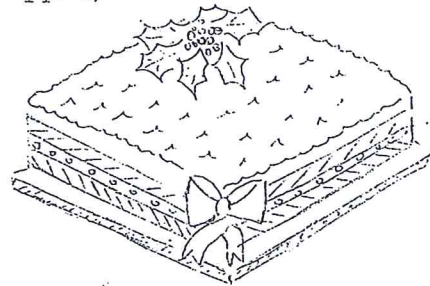
All of God's family was there. We had different coloured skins, we spoke different languages, we wore different clothes but we were all there, as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

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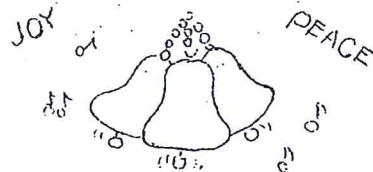
WHY NOT TRY THIS FOR CHRISTMAS

"Decode" the ingredients to make a delicious cake.

- 3½ cups 1 Kings 4:22 (first clause)
- 1 cup Judges 5:25 (second clause)
- 2 cups Jeremiah 6:20
- 2 cups Deuteronomy 23:24 (dried, chopped)
- 2 cups Mark 11:13 (chopped)
- 1 cup Numbers 17:8 (chopped)
- 2 tbs I Samuel 14:25
- 2 tsp Genesis 19:26
- ½ doz. Job 39:14
- 1 cup Genesis 24:30
- 2 tsp Mark 16:1
- 2 tsp Galatians 5:9



Mix as any basic fruit cake, following Solomon's advice for making boys good (Proverbs 23:14, first clause) and you will have a good cake. Bake in a 9" tin at 300° F for 2 hours. Test with fine skewer before removing from oven.



A thought for the holidays...

IF EVERYONE

If everyone who drives a car could be a month in bed
With broken bones and stitched-up hands, or fractures of the head
And there endure the agonies that many people do
They never need preach safety anymore to me or you

If everyone could stand beside the bed of some close friend
And hear the doctor say 'no hope' before the factor end
And see him there unconscious, never knowing what took place
The laws and rules of traffic, I am sure, would soon embrace

If everyone could meet the wife and children left behind
And step into the darkened home where once the sunlight shone
And look upon the vacant chair where Daddy used to sit
I'm sure each reckless driver would be forced to think a bit

If everyone would realise, pedestrians on the street
Have just as much the right-of-way as those upon the seat
And train their eyes for children who run recklessly at play
This steady toll of human lives would drop from day to day

If everyone would check his car before he takes a trip
For tyres worn, loose steering, wheels and brakes that fail to grip
And pay attention to the lights while driving roads at night
Another score for safety could be chalked up in the fight

If everyone who drives a car would heed the danger signs
Placed by highway engineers who also marked the lines
To keep the traffic in the lane and give it proper space
The accidents we read about could not have taken place

And last, if he who takes the wheel would say a little prayer
And keep in mind those in the car depending on his care
And make a vow and pledge himself never to take a chance
The great crusade for safety then, would suddenly advance.

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December 1988.
A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

FROM THE DIARY OF THE LATE BILL BLANDFORD

Friday #4 July

Left hotel at 8.50 am to go to the church dedicated to St Anne where we were again favoured with a con-celebrated Mass. Afterwards, we visited the Pool of Bethesda where people with ailments were cured.

We then moved on to the Chapel of Flagellation and were moving through the caves when our journey for the day was suddenly halted. This was when we had reached the Chapel of Condemnation with its excavation of the Roman Pavement on which Jesus was condemned by Pontious Pilate.

Saturday 5 July

Started early and on the way to the Temple Mount passed by what may have been King David's tomb. The Temple Mount has been a place of prayer for over 3000 years, and we visited the wailing wall and two mosques. I started to say the rosary at one place but was stopped by a Moslem because we were in their part of the city. We were not allowed to take photos of the wailing wall or of the inside of the mosques.

Next we visited the Church of St Peter built on the site of the House of Caiaphas. We visited the room of the Last Supper and the Abbey of Dormition. There are four levels of the Church and at each level there is an altar. Still further down there are the caves where the prisoners of the High Priest were kept. Jesus was probably kept in one of them.

On the way to the Church of the Nativity, built over the place where Jesus was born, we saw the fields where Ruth and Naomi worked when they returned to Jerusalem. It was pretty dark in the Grotto of Christ's birth, but there were a number of candles burning. There were rosary beads (made of olive wood) placed on David's Star denoting the actual place of Jesus' birth.

Sunday 6 July

Today was a free day, but with the option to make a special trip to the Dead Sea and to Massada.

We left the hotel to go to Mass at the Holy Sepulchre Basilica, but as it was in use for a Sunday Mass, we went to a grotto at the side of the Basilica, which is in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We then set off for the Dead Sea through the Sainai Desert. Travelled for about 1½ hours, then saw the salt floating about in abundance. Following our lunch, we drove to the cable car station. Massada rises over 1300 feet above the Dead Sea, which itself is several hundred feet below sea level. What a fantastic sight once we were on top. The fortress covered an area of ten acres and we saw the remains of King Hisichaih's palace.

We saw a number of army camps in the desert and also some Bedouin camps.

Monday 7 July

This morning we were met by an agent of our tour company who took us around some of the parts of the church of the Holy Sepulchre which belong to not one, but five churches - Coptic, Armenian, Jewish, Christian and Moslem. The church is built over and around the place where Jesus died and was buried. We saw part of the stone that blocked the entrance, and the place where Jesus was laid.

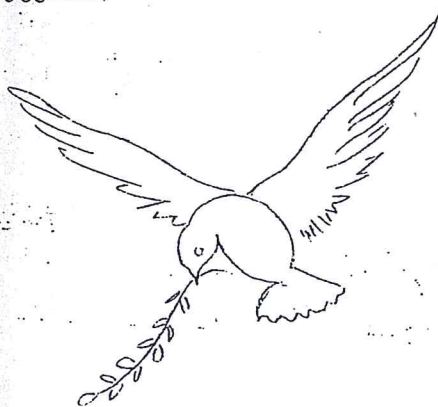
Following our visit, we were free to wander through the city, or catch a bus back to the hotel. After a rest back at the hotel, we prepared to go out for an evening meal provided by the tour company. Our courier then took us for a drive around the city to show us the night lights. And so ended our last full day in the Holy City.

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PEACE IS

The mind. Think it.
The soul. Find it.
The love. Cherish it.
The tear. Shed it.
The hand. Hold it.
The body. Embrace it.
The door. Open it.
The thought. Share it.

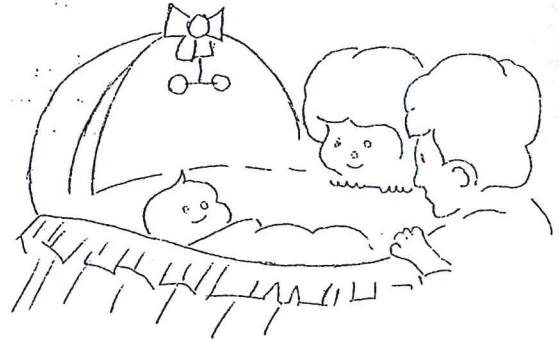
- Anon.



"MORE BABIES"

BAPTISMS

rett Terry FOX
arie DAVIS
enjamin John BERGIN
ichele Olivia STEWART
innie Michael MacNEVIN
acqueline Sheree DAVIS
amuel John O'SULLIVAN
rancisers Johannes VAN KUYK
irsty McALPINE
eill McALPINE
nastasia Frederica RAHARDJA
icholas James VAN DER GEEST
timothy Sheridan LYES

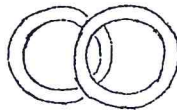


A PRAYER FOR YOU, BABY

May the road you walk be a smooth one
May your troubles be few - if any
May the days and years that lie ahead
Be healthy, happy and many ...
May you find friends in abundance
May the sun shine bright above you
May the world be a wonderful place to live
And the good Lord always love you.

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MARRIAGE



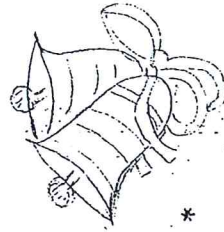
Our congratulations to:
Ian GILLANDERS and Vicki WRIGHT

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A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

May Jesus, our Saviour
Who was born on Christmas Day
Bless you at this season
In a very special way ...
May the beauty and the promise
of that silent, holy night
Fill your heart
And make your New Year bright.



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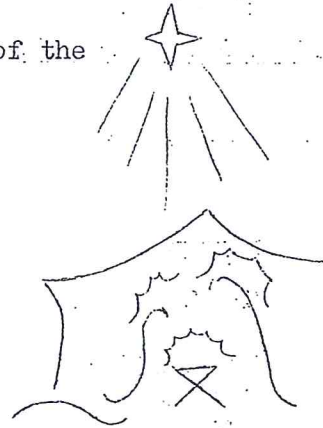
Helen Steiner Rice

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FEAST DAYS FOR DECEMBER

- 3rd St Francis Xavier
- 7th St Ambrose
- 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12th St Jane Frances
- 14th St John of the Cross
- 25th The Birthday of Our Lord
- 26th St Stephen
- 28th The Holy Innocents
- 29th St Thomas Beckett
- 30th The Holy Family



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An optimist is anyone who has a 13 kilo turkey for Christmas and the next day asks, "What's for lunch?"

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST

Father N. Browne - 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield Ph 444-8624

MASS TIMETABLE

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday - 5.30 pm
Sunday - 10.00 am

WEEKDAYS:

Monday - Thursday - 8.30 am
Friday - 10.00 am
Saturday - 8.30 am

First TUESDAY of the Month - 9.30 am Senior Parishioners' Mass

First SUNDAY of the Month - 10.00 am Family Mass

RECONCILIATION: - Saturday, following morning Mass

BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS: - By arrangement with Father

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

MASSES:

CHRISTMAS DAY - Midnight (Carol Service 11.30 pm) and 9.00 am
NEW YEARS DAY - 5.30 pm Vigil Mass and 10.00 am
SUNDAYS - 5.30 pm Vigil Mass and 10.00 am
WEEKDAYS DURING JANUARY - 8.30 am

RECONCILIATION:

Monday 19 December 7.00 pm Second Rite of Reconciliation
Saturday 24 December 9.00 - 10.00 am
7.00 - 8.00 pm