

January 2022 Columbine



Well here we are at the start of 2022 and we wish you all a blessed and Happy New Year.

In this month's edition we have included the two messages from Our Lady given on Christmas Day 2021. She is always calling us to pray and reminds us of the great and unconditional love that God has for us. Let's all renew the dedication our lives to His service this year.

Jan and Kathy



The **Mary's Meals** charity was founded to ensure that children from poor families across the globe would be fed at school. Earlier last year they reached the amazing milestone of 2 million meals a day. You can donate online at marysmeals.org.uk and donations will be matched by generous supporters until **January 31st 2022**.

- On page 2 New Year's resolutions from Pope Francis
- On page 3 Profiles of St. Ita and St. Thomas Aquinas
- On page 4 Congratulations to Charlotte Burwood and James Finbow on their wedding last month and some cartoons

Our Lady's messages on December 25th 2021

We have two messages from Our Lady in this month's newsletter:

Christmas message to Jakov Colo

"Dear children, You are, and you are called, 'children of God'. If only your hearts would feel that immeasurable love which God has for you, your hearts would adore and give thanks to Him at every instant of your life. Therefore, little children, today, on this day of grace, open your hearts and implore the Lord for the gift of faith; so that you could truly become worthy of the name 'children of God' who, with a pure heart, give thanks to and honour their Heavenly Father. I am beside you and am blessing you with my motherly blessing."
(December 25th, 2021)

Christmas message to Marija

"Dear children! Today I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, for Him to give you His peace. Little children, without peace you do not have a future or blessing; therefore return to prayer, because the fruit of prayer is joy and faith, without which you cannot live. Today's blessing which we give you, carry to your families and enrich all those whom you meet, that they may feel the grace which you are receiving. Thank you for having responded to my call."
(December 25th, 2021)



Our beloved dead

Martin Mongan	4th Jan 1994
Tom O'Malley	6th Jan 2001
Malcolm Muir	9th Jan 2011
Peter Hearne	11th Jan 2018
Arthur Campbell	15th Jan 2014
Nan O'Malley	16th Jan 2016
Dan McCarthy	25th Jan 1978

A prayer for 2022

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything,
Please help us to love in our very small way
What You love infinitely and everywhere.

We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer
And that will be more than enough,
Because in reality everything and everyone is connected,
And nothing stands alone.

To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole,
And so we do.

Help us each day to stand
For love, for healing, for the good,
For the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation,
Because we know this is what You desire:
As Jesus prayed, that all may be one.

We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God,
We offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord,
Amen.



Living Stones prayer group meets at 6.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at St. Mark's, Ipswich and at St. Mary's, Ardleigh on the 2nd and 4th Mondays.

Mother's prayers meet Mondays at 10.30 am - currently on Zoom. Contact Kathy 07889 123702 or Jan 07713 406798

New Years Resolutions

Pope Francis advises:

- 1) Don't gossip
- 2) Finish your meals
- 3) Make time for others
- 4) Choose the 'more humble' purchase
- 5) Meet the poor 'in the flesh'
- 6) Stop judging others
- 7) Befriend those who disagree
- 8) Make commitments, such as marriage
- 9) Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'
- 10) Be happy





St Ita January 15th

St Ita was born in Waterford Ireland in 475 CE and died in 570. Reputedly of royal lineage she refused to marry and her father gave her permission to remain a virgin. She founded a community of women in Killeedy and a school for boys.

Among her pupils was St Brendan and she was called the foster mother of other Saints. Brendan is believed to have asked her what three things God loved best. "True faith in God and a pure heart, a simple life with a religious spirit and open-handedness inspired by charity," she answered. The three things God most detested were "a scowling face, obstinacy in wrongdoing, and too great a

confidence in the power of money." She was called Ita because it means "thirst for holiness".

Many miracles were attributed to her including the decapitated head of a man being reunited with his body.

She was said to embody the six virtues of Irish womanhood : wisdom , purity , beauty, musical ability, gentle speech and needle skills. She dedicated herself to prayer, fasting, simplicity and cultivated a gift for spiritual discernment. She was endowed with the gift of prophecy and was much sought after for spiritual direction.

It is still possible to visit the site of her grave in the ruins of the church built on the site of the monastery and a nearby Holy Well has been known for centuries for curing smallpox and other diseases of childhood...the local name is "my little Ita's well". She is reportedly a good intercessor in terms of pregnancy and eye illnesses.

St Thomas Aquinas doctor of the church January 28th

Tomasso d'Aquino was born in 1225 and died in 1274.

Thomas Aquinas was a medieval saint, said in moments of high excitement to levitate and have visions of the Virgin Mary. He was much concerned with explaining how angels speak and move.

And yet he continues to matter because he helps us with a problem which still bedevils us: how we can reconcile religion with science and faith with reason.

Aquinas was both a philosopher and a holy saint. Refusing either to lose his faith or mindlessly believe, he developed a new understanding of the place of reason in human life. Aquinas's monumental contribution was to teach Western European civilisation that any human being – not just a Christian – could have access to great truths whenever they made use of God's greatest gift to human beings: reason. He broke a logjam in Christian thinking, the question of how non-Christians could have both wisdom and at the same time no interest in, or even knowledge of, Jesus.

He universalised intelligence and opened the Christian mind to the insights of all of humanity from across the ages and continents. The modern world, in so far as it insists that good ideas can come from any quarter regardless of creed or background, remains hugely in his debt.

He joined the Dominicans and became an exceptionally prolific author, writing nearly two hundred pieces about Christian theology in less than three decades. His books bear beautiful and strange titles the 'Summa Theologica' and 'Summa contra Gentiles'.

He also became a hugely popular and influential teacher, and was eventually allowed by the Dominican leadership to found his own school in Naples. Such was his devotion to knowledge, even at the moment of his death (at the age of forty-nine), he is reputed to have been in the middle of delivering an extended commentary on the Song of Songs. After he died, he was canonised by the Catholic Church and is now the patron saint of teachers.



Congratulations to Charlotte Burwood and James Finbow who were married on December 18th



Prayer for newly weds

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the joy of Charlotte and James. Through all the years of their life you have watched over them to bring them together in holy Christian marriage.

Now Lord, bless them, for they are united in love of you and of each other.

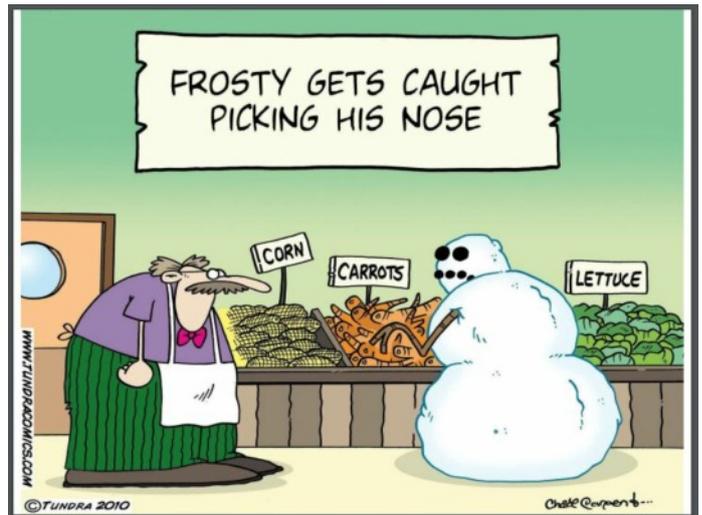
Redeemed by your Precious Blood and strengthened by your grace, may they live in kindness and fidelity, in unflinching trust and love so that their whole life may be pleasing to you.

Mary, who with Joseph made a happy home at Nazareth for Jesus, take these dear friends into your motherly care.

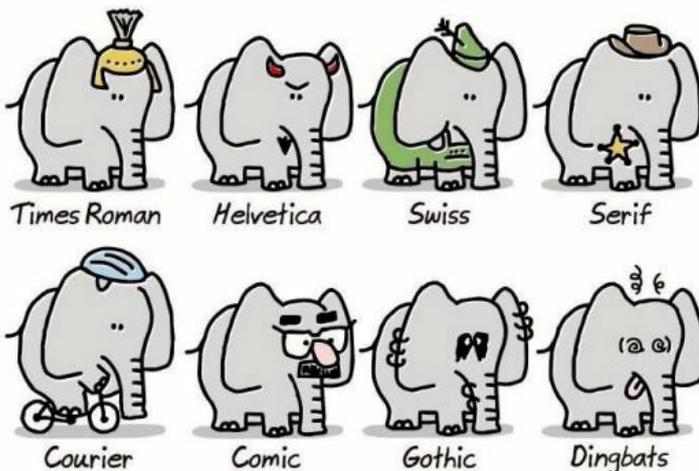
You who showed concern for a newly married couple at Cana, help and guide James and Charlotte.

May their union on earth lead to that eternal union in which all the blessed will be joined together, praising the Redeeming Blood of Jesus, the Lord. Amen

New Year smiles!



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