

# CCR BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2016 (as at 29 Nov.)

## SERVICES

<b>December 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Very Revd Dr Trevor Morrow
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Very Revd Dr Trevor Morrow
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd. Jim Carson
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Revd. Jim Carson
<b>December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Very Revd Dr Trevor Morrow
	11.00 am	Morning Worship	Very Revd Dr Trevor Morrow
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	Christmas Day Family Service	Dr Neville Cobbe
<b>2017 January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	11.00 am	New Year's Day Family Service	Revd Lorraine Kennedy- Ritchie
<b>Elders on Duty</b>	Alison Houston Ian Kelly		<b>Stewards</b> Guido Kerens Gary Tennant

**Advent Season: NOW Christians everywhere** prepare themselves for the arrival of the Saviour who comes to release humanity from the grip of sin and estrangement from God. Our wealthy culture has moved away from the idea of disciplined fasting before a feast, but **we pray** that we may become aware of our need for God's Grace, and that we may celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ humbly, thankfully, with lively joy, and show generous love to all our brothers and sisters in Christ. **We pray** that we may learn through generous giving of ourselves to thank God with persistent enthusiasm for the infinite generosity of the gift to us of Jesus the Son, Mary's child! A Very Happy Christmas to us All!

**We ask your prayer** for **Pauline M.** recovering slowly from an operation, that she may fully recover her strength, for **Jimmy G.** preparing himself for a difficult operation in the near future, and also for **Viola O'C.** recovering from painful injuries, and pray that God may enfold them with gentle arms and bind up their wounds and fill them with a sense of God's infinitely caring presence.

**The Christmas Fair was a lively occasion** and enjoyed by all who took part. We thank all of you who came to buy or to work or to contribute. We celebrate especially the wonderful work of those who baked numerous delicious confections, or who crafted careful handiwork. We thank especially Armand Flack for his thoughtful, considerate and painstaking organisation, and Wilma Ormiston for organising the Craft Fair section, and the stall holders, Carol Esmonde, Colette Laing, Enid Mayrs, Louise Potts, Steven Ross, Gary Tennant, and Joanne Vance Cronin. We thank their assistants, the car park and security corps who endured a cold time of it, for those who helped with publicity, and with setting up and taking down the tables. It was marvellous to see congregation members of every age and variety, new and long-term, working so happily together and making at least €4600 for the church and for distribution to charities. Resounding and thankful cheers for you all!

**The Church Committee** will meet on Tuesday 6th December at 8pm in the Fletcher Room.

**Christmas Decoration of the Church** will take place at 2pm on 6th December, led by Jill McQuillan. More helpers most welcome.

**CAROLS FOR ALL** - This year's ecumenical Christmas celebration will take place on **Friday 9th December at 7pm in CCR**. Refreshments and mince pies afterwards as usual in the Lecture Hall. This event is always great fun, and witnesses to the joy and unity of local Christians at this most joyous season. We expect the Rathfarnham Concert Band Society Intermediate Band to take part and to hear from our own youth band, and to meet some of our Romanian friends. **Please** come and support and enjoy the occasion, organised by the **Rathgar-Terenure Fellowship** and hosted by **Christ Church Rathgar**. This year there will be a retiring collection in aid of the **Sing for Simon** appeal.

**CCR Christmas Cards:** Christmas Cards with photographs of our church will be available again this year in the front porch, priced €4 for 6

**The Explorers**, a Sandymount-based ecumenical group who read the Scriptures together, are this year **Reading Romans Together** under the leadership of **Dr Kieran O'Mahony OSA**, the well-known Biblical scholar. The next meeting on **Monday 12th December** will examine **Romans Ch 5-8 - the Gift of Grace**. Meetings take place in the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green, and begin at 7.30 sharp.

**Gujarat - SISU Hostels** - We have received a report for the Hostels we have supported in the Dangs area of Gujarat in which Raymond Samuel the Director of SISU says - *We do trust and pray regularly that the Lord may bless you abundantly for the dedicated support extended to the tribal children in our care - Thanking you again!* Accompanying photos will go up in the church and on our website. A sample photo will be found in the Online/website edition.

Our neighbours **the Rathgar Methodist Church** have notified us of two Christmas events to take place in their Brighton Road Church. On December 3rd the **Christmas Breakfast** will offer good food and company from 7.30-11.30am @ €7, proceeds to charity. At 8pm on Saturday 10th December a **Christmas Concert**, organised by the Leinster School of Music, will support the "Embracing the World" charities - Tickets €15 including interval refreshments (For information about the charity visit: embracing the world.com: for tickets visit [www.ammaireland.org](http://www.ammaireland.org)).

**Online/website edition of CCR Bulletin - supplement:** Some additional information about the Explorers' programme and a photograph of the girls in the Vyara Hostel can be found in the website/online edition [www.christchurchrathgar.org](http://www.christchurchrathgar.org).

**Bulletin Editor's Details** - Email address: [bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org](mailto:bulletineditor@christchurchrathgar.org). Let's hear from you! Suggestions for those needing our prayers especially welcome. Robin Simmons's phone number will be found in the Phonebook. **NB** Copy deadline for January Bulletin-Wednesday 21st December-to appear on **Christmas Day**

1 . Photograph of the Girls at the SISU Vyara Hostel \*



**2. The Explorers** are an informal ecumenical group based in Sandymount and environs, who gather to read Scripture together. You are most welcome to join us for the 2016-2017 season, during which we will be exploring Paul's Letter to the Romans. For further information, please contact Anngret Simms (269 4374). Paul's Letter to the Romans: eight evening gatherings

We will be meeting again this year in the Community Room of the Mount Tabor Care Centre, Sandymount Green, next to Christ Church. We meet from 7.30 - 9.00 pm, beginning and ending promptly. All evenings will be led by Kieran O'Mahony, OSA. Remaining meetings:

Monday, 12 December 2016	Gift of grace: Romans 5-8
Monday, 16 January 2017	Jews and Gentiles: Romans 9-11
Monday, 20 February 2017	Grace in practice: Romans 12.1-15.6
Monday, 20 March 2017	Conclusion: Romans 15.7-33; 16
Monday, 24 April 2017	Romans for today's church

Dr Kieran J O'Mahony, O.S.A. is Biblical Studies Coordinator, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Dublin.

All are welcome to any or all evenings of this series. Please bring a Bible with you. The Community Room is used for residents' activities during the day, and is available for wider community use in the evenings. We are grateful to the Director, Ms Jane Butler, and to the Dublin Central Mission of the Methodist Church for their hospitality.