



DECEMBER 2023

Life Is an Advent Season . . .

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil.

Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfilment into the Advent of our lives."



"Wishing all our Sisters a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for 2024 and beyond. We remember too, our families and friends at this very special time."

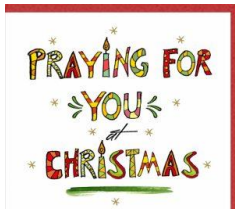
Catherine and Margôt, Carlisle.

Sisters Ursula, Maeve and Mary in Dunmurry wish to send Christmas greetings to all the sisters of the Northern European Area. We feel that Christmas presents us with an opportunity to be in touch using the channel of the Newsletter to forward our Christmas wishes. We will send our donations to our two favourite charities, the local Vincent de Paul and the Belfast de Paul.



May each of you be filled with Peace and Joy as we celebrate again the Feast of Christ's coming into the world bringing us Love, Hope, Wisdom, Compassion and a Way to live - all that Salvation requires. *Dunmurry*

Blessings in the New Year, to you all. With warmest wishes.



A very happy and blessed Christmas season to all of you from your sisters in the Madonna House community. We will remember you all in prayer during this Advent and Christmas season. We have made a contribution to the local St Vincent de Paul conference which helps many families in the area.
Madonna House Community

We wish you peace and joy this Christmas tide.

Our postal savings will go towards giving a little extra to Kathleen and Eleanor to support poor families in Liverpool.

Arrowsmith and Seafield communities.

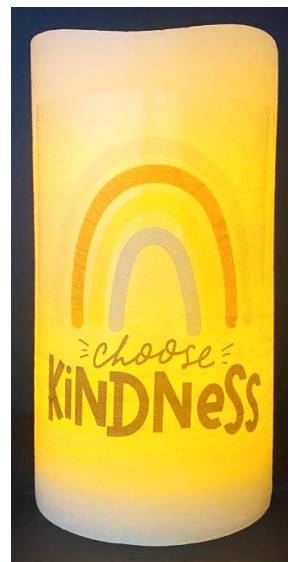


LET THERE BE KINDNESS AT CHRISTMAS

Let there be kindness at Christmas, for one and all,
Let others know the dove of peace has come to call.
Let others see that with you, Christmas can be kind,
Leave spoonful of joyfulness for others to find.
Distribute your smiles, let them float to those around,
So when the smiles reaches them, happiness is found.

Let there be understanding at Christmas this year,
Let others know that your forgiveness is now here.
Let others see that with you, hate does not belong,
That with you, they will once more find hope and feel strong.
Open up your heart, and let them know that you care,
And that when tomorrow comes, you will still be there.

Jenny Maryl



We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a New Year filled with Love and peace.

Our donation is going to the Food Bank in East Ham.

Dorothy, Kathleen and Breda

Every blessing and good wish to you all for the Christmas season. May it be a time of joy and peace for you and your families and may 2024 bring many blessings.

We have made our customary contribution to the local SVP in lieu of post and community presents.

Grianan Community.



RING OUT, WILD BELLS by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (from *In Memoriam*)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die...

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.



With love and best wishes to each and everyone this Christmas. May your health be good and your spirit strong as we all face the challenges of living in the midst of such sadness and war in so many parts of the world.

I am donating our card money to St Vincent de Paul in our parish at Northfields where the need is great.

Mary Jo Martin

As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your hearts be filled with peace and joy. May the blessings of Christmas stay with you throughout the year. Donation to food vouchers for local families.

Love from Anne and Kathleen, Fazakerly



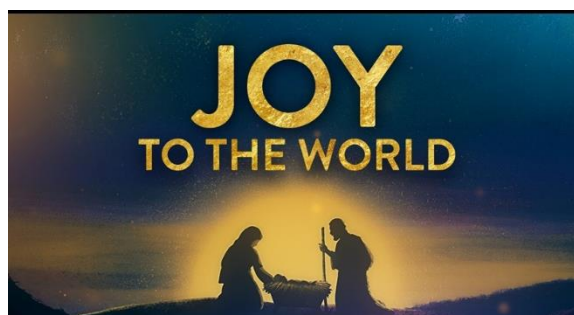
As we pray for peace in our world, we wish each of you a blessed, joyful and peace filled Christmas. In lieu of cards we have given a donation to our local branch of St. Vincent de Paul.

Naomh Bríd Community

To every heart that dares to hope,
to every soul that longs for peace,
to everyone who shares His love
joy to you and all the world.

Wishing you all peace, joy and happiness at Christmas and many blessings in 2024.

Love Margaret Lee



The RSHM Community in 72 Drumcondra Road Upper wish all RSHMs in the NEA, and indeed anyone who reads our Newsletter, a very Happy Christmas and many Blessings for the New Year 2024. This poem by Rumi captures the tone and ambiance of the place. *Dominique*

THE GUEST HOUSE

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.



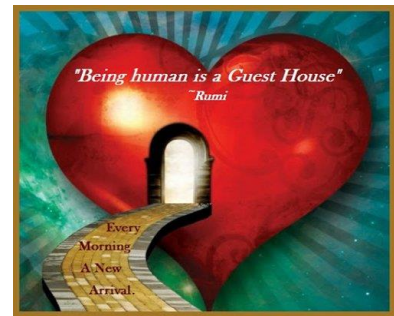
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Jalaluddin Rumi
from Rumi: Selected Poems, trans Coleman



Day of Hope . . .

Christmas is the one day of the year
that carries real hope and promise for all mankind.
It is the one day in the year when most of us
grow big of heart and broad of mind.
It is the single day when most of us
are as kind and as thoughtful of others as we know how to be;
When most of us are as gracious and generous
as we would like always to be;
When the joy of home is more important
than the profits of the office;
When peoples of all races speak cheerfully
to each other when they meet

*This Advent and Christmas season may we all want the best for our world and,
by our longing and action, bring it about through open, generous hearts.*