

"Unto Us A Child is Born".



STORY: A nun is going through customs with a Nativity Set. The customs officer says to her: "In this day I have to examine the figurines in case there is something explosive inside", to which Sister replies : "You'd better believe it....there was something mighty explosive about the Birth of Jesus".

It was Christmas Eve (1971), my first Christmas in West Africa.....no electricity in that small town of Adikpo. From north, south, east and west they came carrying little lamps and singing carols along the bush paths; some had trekked 10/12 miles to greet the Infant King.

The singing and drumming at Mass were exceptional!

As I came off the altar, Sister Marianna asked me to put a heavily pregnant woman on the back of the ute and take her to hospital, 53 miles away on a very bush road.



Five miles out of town the two nursing aids banged on the cab of the ute, shouting "Fadda, Fadda, dee woman has born": it worked every time on the corrugated road... we had our Christmas baby! The dynamite of Christ starts with every new-born girl and boy... or at least it should!



MERRY CHRISTMAS...

Fr. Paul Hopper C.S.Sp.



Fr Gerard Bonaventure, C.S.Sp.

Following the death of Fr Terry Donnelly in September 2021, our community has been without a community leader. We are now happy to have Fr Gerard Bonaventure, who has been appointed temporarily as the community leader in Carfin. Fr Gerard is from Chennai in Southern India. He was ordained a Catholic Priest on the 3rd of December 2005 in India. In 2013, he joined The Spiritans, where he made his first profession and final profession in 2017 and 2019 respectively. Fr Gerard, before his arrival to the United Kingdom, has worked in India, Kenya and Vietnam. Since his appointment to the British Province, he worked in SS Michael and Martin Church in Hounslow, London, as an assistant Parish Priest and most recently as a chaplain to Heathrow Airport. We welcome him to Scotland and to our community, and we wish him well during his stay with us here in Carfin, and hope he enjoys the Scottish hospitality!

Little Flower Wednesday Club

For the past two months we have been serving teas and light lunches in our Little Flower Hall. This has been greatly appreciated by those attending, both local people and those from further afield. They have mentioned that it is good to mix again after a long period with no community hub. They also felt welcome, enjoyed the food, and especially enjoyed the chance to have a blether over a cup of tea! It has also been a boost to our Charity Shop on Wednesdays. The Little Flower Hall has been a centre for the wider community of Carfin for over 150 years - indeed 2023 will be it's 160th Anniversary of opening! The volunteers are now taking a well-earned break until 19th January. Hope to see you in the new year.



2021 Annual Raffle Draw

Our annual raffle draw is one of the ways we raise funds to support our mission to the poorest of the poor both locally and globally. This year's raffle draw was a huge success. Thanks to you all for buying our 2021 annual raffle tickets. The raffle has been drawn and the winners are published at the back of this newsletter. We realised over **£9,000** from the sales of the raffle tickets this year. The generosity of all our friends is so important to us, because it enables us to reach out to the poorest of the poor in our society and our world, and we are sincerely grateful. God Bless you and your family!





From the Bursar's desk..

Christmas greetings to you all from the Spiritan Community Carfin. Even though this new omicron variant seems to be forcing government authorities to reintroduce restrictions which will eventually affect Christmas celebrations with families and loved ones this year again. As Christians, I want to encourage you with the words of scripture in Isaiah

41:13 which says ***"I, the Lord, your God, I am holding you by the right hand; I tell you, 'Do not be afraid, I will help you'".*** So during these difficult times, I urge you to put your trust in God because that is where our help comes from. As scriptures says; ***"Those who put their trust in God are like mount Zion that cannot be shaken..."***
Psalms 125:1

As a missionary congregation, we are committed to the poorest of the poor, ensuring that they too live normal and comfortable lives. So this year's Christmas appeal will be going to Nigeria to alleviate the sufferings of those who have been affected by terrorist activities and conflicts. Attached to this newsletter is some information about this year's Christmas appeal. Please, we rely on your generosity to help reach this affected people.

Also, as a community here in Carfin, this year has not been the best of years for us. We were still figuring out on how to survive the pandemic, and all the financial challenges that came with it, then suddenly we lost Fr Terry who was, until his death, our community leader. His death, no doubt brought a new and different challenge to us as a community, with Fr Peter whom we have to care for 24/7 because of the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) he is suffering from. All these are just a lot to chew on at the same time. However, we rely on God's sustenance to pull us through. And your donations to us will highly be appreciated, as it will help us pay our bills. So if you wish to have a mass offered for a special intention and wish to offer a stipend, or you are able to donate to our community to help us during this time, please do so either by post, bank transfer or push an envelope through our door.

Once again, thank you for all your support to us. May Our Mother of Perpetual help pray for us. **Fr. Jude.**

Our bank details are:

Account Name: The Spiritans

Account Number: 29503035

Sort Code: 01-03-46



LITTLE FLOWER HALL
Now Available for hire for
all sorts of occasions.

Full bar facilities can be arranged.

Contact Fr. Jude on
01698 290831

or

07438 774799

Carfin@spiritans.co.uk

CHARITY SHOP
Open Monday—Saturday
10 am—2 pm

Help us by letting us help you

All donations of good-quality items of clothing footwear and bric-a-brac will be gratefully received.

Volunteers needed for the shop.

Please Contact Fr. Jude on
07438 774799



2021 ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS

PRIZE	TICKET NUMBER	NAME
1 st Prize - £500	01000	Val Spellman
2 nd Prize - £300	02619	Charles McKenna
3 rd Prize - £200	14099	Paul Scott
4 th Prize - £100	01728	John Campbell

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New year from

Frs. Paddy, Philip
Paul, Peter, Jude,
Gerard &
Rev Precious

THE SPIRITANS

117 Newarthill Road, Carfin,
Motherwell ML1 5AL

Tel: 01698 290831

Email: carfin@spiritans.co.uk
www.spiritans.co.uk

Facebook: The Spiritans Carfin

Twitter @Carfin Spiritans