

I have finished another year," said God,
 "In grey, green, white, and brown;
 I have strewn the leaf upon the sod,
 Sealed up the worm within the clod,
 And let the last sun down."

"And what's the good of it?" I said.
 "What reasons made you call
 From formless void this earth we tread,
 When nine-and-ninety can be read
 Why nought should be at all?"

"Yea, Sire; why shaped you us, 'who in
 This tabernacle groan'—
 If ever a joy be found herein,
 Such joy no man had wished to win
 If he had never known!"

Then he: "My labours—logicless—
 You may explain; not I:
 Sense-sealed I have wrought, without a guess
 That I evolved a Consciousness
 To ask for reasons why.

"Strange that ephemeral creatures who
 By my own ordering are,
 Should see the shortness of my view,
 Use ethic tests I never knew,
 Or made provision for!"

He sank to raptness as of yore,
 And opening New Year's Day
 Wove it by rote as theretofore,
 And went on working evermore
 In his unweeing way.


**HAPPY
 NEW YEAR**

To all our families, we wish the blessings of the New Born Saviour in your lives, and that we are all kept safe and well in the coming year, 2019.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BY Thomas Hardy

Christmas Season

St Mary's Church Bocan

Weekday Masses

**Wedding Mass on Monday
 at 12.30 pm**

Tuesday & Wednesday, 10
 am Thursday, 7.30 pm; Friday,
 First Friday of the Month, 10
 am; Saturday, 11 am.

Confessions

Saturday 7.15 pm—7.45 pm.

Anniversary Mass this weekend:

Sunday 11 am: Maeve
 Harkin, Falmore

Next Weekend:

Saturday Vigil 8 pm: Patrick
 Loftus, Red Row, Culdaff

Sunday 11 am Nellie
 McDermott, Drumley

Responsorial Psalm

**They are happy who dwell in
 your house, O Lord.**

The Most Holy Family

"The Lord sets a father in
 honor over his children;
 A mother's authority he
 confirms over her sons.
 He who honors his father
 atones for sins;
 He stores up riches who
 reveres his mother."

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14



+JMU

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Collections Weekly Offering : €1,325;
Your generosity to our collection is much appreciated.



THE HOLY FAMILY

First Reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2,21-24 We are God's children now.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

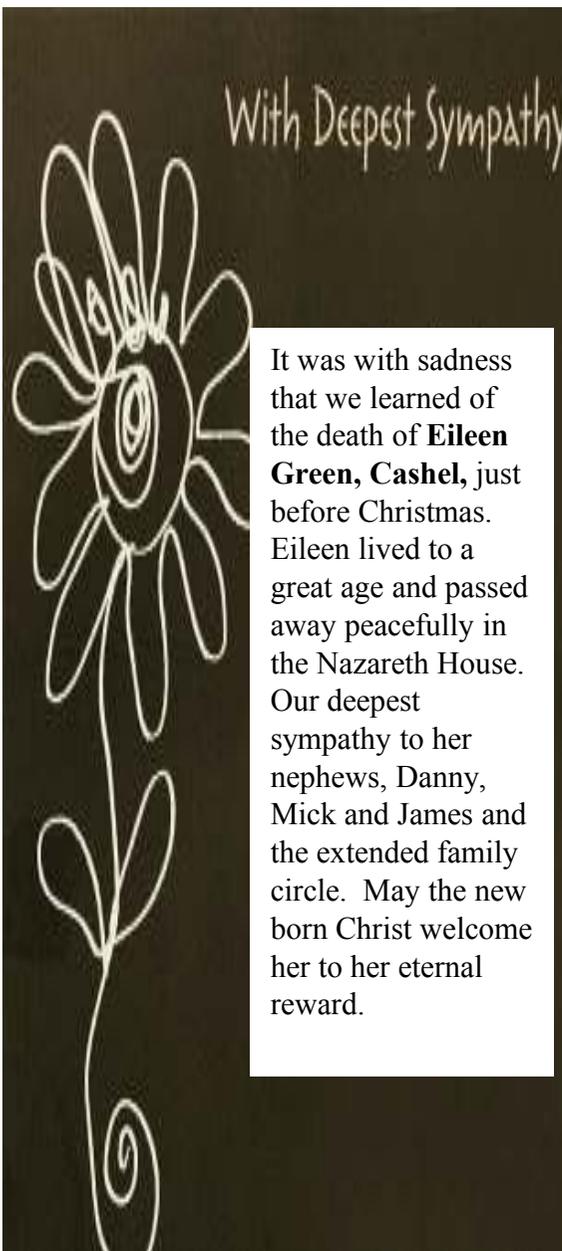
The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Fr Haan wishes to thank everyone for their most generous Christmas Collection.

Counters for the Month of January: :
Barbara O'Connor, Roger Mooney,
Bernadette Scott, Maria Finnegan

The Weekly Envelopes for 2019 will be available from Thursday onward this week. Would the Pastoral Councillors collect their area.

At this time of year we acknowledge the contribution of everyone toward the smooth running of the church. In particular we thank Mary in the sacristy for all her hard work; our readers and Eucharistic Ministers for their commitment each week; the choir whose contribution is invaluable; our altar servers; collectors and counters for their time; The Pastoral Council and its off-shoot committees for their guidance. We thank them all and assure them of our prayers.



It was with sadness that we learned of the death of **Eileen Green, Cashel**, just before Christmas.

Eileen lived to a great age and passed away peacefully in the Nazareth House. Our deepest sympathy to her nephews, Danny, Mick and James and the extended family circle. May the new born Christ welcome her to her eternal reward.

Whist

1st Margaret McGilloway, Malin 2nd Sheila Doherty, Carn, 3rd John Doherty,

Tickets Sarah McDermott, John Farren, Joanie McLaughlin, Sheila McCallion

Other Winners

Bridgid McCauley, Mickey O'Donnell, Sheila McCallion, Dolores O'Donnell, Wendy Farren, John Farren, Betty Doherty.

Whist next Friday at 8 pm in Bocan Hall. Snowball next week: €120 on 183 or better

Annual New Year's Day Swim takes place on Tuesday at Caratra Beach at 2.30 pm. A memorable day always and a worth charity will benefit.

January 1 2019

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE DEEP END: When Jesus was small In primary school we used to sing a song about Jesus' childhood. I don't recall the exact words, but the chorus went something like this:

Jesus was a happy child
When he was small like me
He used to laugh and run around
And sometimes climb a tree
Running here, running there
Having fun like you and me.

There was a verse about his mother bringing him to school on his first day. The aim was clearly to remind us that Jesus was a real child who did all the things that other children do. In theological terms, it impressed on our young minds the humanity of Jesus, even as we heard the stories of the healings and miracles that expressed his divinity.

This hymn came to mind as I reflected on today's Gospel. The story of the finding in the Temple is the only one we have from Jesus' childhood, so it takes on greater significance. It is both an ordinary and extraordinary family story, highlighting a typical family incident while also setting the scene for Jesus' future mission. What parent hasn't felt the panic of discovering their child is missing, and then been overcome with relief when they were found? But the story ends with the realisation that Jesus is far from ordinary. His parents don't understand his cryptic reference to 'my Father's affairs', but Mary stores up 'all these things' in her heart, accepting the mysterious workings of God.

We are left, with Mary and Joseph, to ponder who this child really is.

Triona Doherty

