

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN  
NEWSLETTER  
C/O MAURY COLLINS  
2847 NASH ROAD  
TOLEDO, OHIO 43613**



**BORDERLINE GENIUS, LLC**



IN GOD WE TRUST



**Dec. 4 ~ Christmas party**

**Dec. 8 ~ Feast of Immaculate Conception**

**Dec. 21 ~ Winter Solstice**

**Dec. 25 ~ Nollaig shona duit**

**Jan.1 ~ Athbliain faoi mhaise duit**



# HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER



Mother McAuley Division

December, 2021

John P. Kelly Division

## Annual Hibernian Christmas Party

December 4 , 5-10pm at  
St. Pius X Community Center,  
2950 Ilger. Toledo, Ohio 43606



Set up and gathering starting at 5:30 PM

Monsignor Chris Vasko will celebrate Mass at 6:30 PM

Music by Robert McMahon.

Dinner and fellowship to follow

**Meat and Beverages will be provided**

**Bring your favorite dish to pass**

**RSVP: ANN DOLLMAN 419-250-0288**





A wonderful Toledo Irish tradition.  
Please honor us with your presence.



Hibernians marching in the Toledo Holiday Parade November 13, 2021

# DECEMBER, 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 <i>Hibernian Christmas Party</i>
5	6	7	8 <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>Echo's of Ireland WCWA 1230 AM 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Echo's of Ireland WCWA 1230 AM 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM</i>	20	21 <i>Winter Solstice</i>	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29	30		

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CRAZY EDITOR, MAURY COLLINS



Take a moment during this joyous time to reach out to Sister Ann McManus. It certainly can't be easy for that dear lady not to be out and about. A Christmas card, a letter or a phone call would brighten her day. She has been an important part of the Toledo Hibernians from our beginning.

Sister Ann McManus  
C/O Rosary Care, Room 407  
6832 Convent Blvd  
Sylvania, Ohio 43560

Sister Brigid Kelly is in the same place. I don't have a room number, but if you send to the same address, I'm sure it will get to her.



**The Lucas County Hibernian Family Friendly St. Patrick's Day celebration will return in 2022!!** There is an ad contract on page 12. If you would like to place an ad or know someone, who might want to, please let me know.



## ADVENT ~ A TIME OF PREPARATION

Advent, which comes from the Latin word for "arrival" or "coming," is a period of preparation for the birth of our Lord. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and is the start of the Christmas season, which lasts through the Baptism of Our Lord. The first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the liturgical year, the Church's "New Year's Day," at which time we change the cycle of readings we are using at Mass. Advent is a period of preparation, and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time. Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, but also of penance and preparation for the great Christmas feast. The liturgical color of the season is purple, a sign of penance, which is also used during Lent. The Church discourages excessive ornamentation, boisterous music and even weddings during Advent, in order to foster a sense of quiet hope. The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday because in Latin, the first words of the opening antiphon for that day's Mass are "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). On this Sunday rose-colored vestments are permitted and the rose-colored candle is lit as a reminder that we are called to rejoice.

# CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND

Christmas for Irish people lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of Epiphany on January 6th, which some Irish people call 'Little Christmas'. There is an old tradition that in some Irish houses, people put a tall, thick candle on the sill of the largest window after sunset on Christmas Eve. The candle is left to burn all night and represents a welcoming light for Mary and Joseph.

## Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve fish is traditionally eaten as a form of fasting before Christmas. In the mid 19th to 20th century, Irish families would have spent a number of weeks in the run up to Christmas "getting in the Christmas", slowly purchasing all the food and supplies needed for the holiday. In rural areas, the local shopkeeper would give loyal patrons a "Christmas box" as a gift, which often included a Christmas candle and a Christmas jug. The Christmas jug was a china jug full of jam. The tradition of the Christmas box waned after the rationing during World War II.

## Santa Claus

In Irish Christmas is 'Nollaig', Santa Claus, Daidí na Nollag (lit. Daddy of Christmas) in Irish, is known in Ireland and Northern Ireland as Santy or Santa] He brings presents to children in Ireland, which are opened on Christmas morning. It is traditional to leave a mince pie and a bottle or a glass of Guinness along with a carrot for Rudolph. Most big shopping centers have a Santa's grotto setup from late November so that shoppers and visitors with kids can visit Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas

## Christmas swim

It is traditional to swim in the sea on Christmas morning. This is often done in aid of charity. The 40 Foot in Sandycove in Dublin and Blackrock in Salthill, Galway are traditional venues for this where hundreds brave the cold temperatures and jump into the sea.

## Christmas Dinner

The traditional Christmas dinner consisted of spiced or roast beef, a roast goose and ham with a selection of vegetables and roast potatoes. The cooking of a turkey is a more modern, imported tradition. They also have round cake full of caraway seeds. Dessert often consisted of an array of dishes, with Christmas pudding a traditional choice, which is sometimes served with brandy being poured over it and then set alight. It was considered unlucky to cut the pudding before Christmas Day, and if the pudding broke during cooking the baker would be dead before next Christmas. Other desserts include Christmas cake, sherry trifle, yule log and mince pies with sauces such as brandy butter.

Thousands of tins of biscuits, which are bought in advance, may then be opened and eaten. Of the traditional biscuit selections available ahead of the festive season, the Afternoon Tea variety outsells the others.[15] Chocolate selection boxes are also popular as gifts at Christmas

## Women's Christmas

The Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) was also celebrated in some towns in Ireland as 'Nollaig na mBean' or Women's Christmas. Traditionally the women got the day off and the men do the housework and cooking! The women met in each other's homes to sew and chat. Although it's mostly died out, some women still like to get together on the Sunday nearest Epiphany, to have tea and cakes, to gossip and to enjoy each other's company!

# Smile and be happy

If you see a fat man who's jolly and cute, Wearing a beard and a red flannel suit, And if he is chuckling and laughing away, While flying around in a miniature sleigh, With eight tiny reindeer to pull him along, Then let's face it... your eggnog's too strong!

It was Christmas Eve in one particular Irish household and the husband was arguing with his wife. 'It's the same every year!' he bellowed. 'You're never satisfied. I buy the turkey, I pluck the turkey and I stuff the turkey All you've got to do, woman, is kill it!'

How the tradition of having angels on top of Christmas trees started. Santa was very cross. It was Christmas Eve and nothing was going right. The elves were complaining about not getting paid overtime. The reindeer had been drinking all afternoon and the sleigh was broken. Santa was furious. 'I can't believe it!' he yells. 'I've got to deliver millions of presents all over the world in just a few hours – all of my reindeer are drunk, the elves are on strike and I don't even have a Christmas tree! I sent that stupid little angel to find one hours ago! What am I going to do?' Just then, the little angel opens the front door and steps in from the snowy night, dragging a Christmas tree. 'Hey fatty!' she says. 'Where d'you want me to stick this?'

On Christmas Eve, Nathan thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present might be. Unable to decide, Nathan entered Debenhams and in the cosmetics section he asked the girl, 'How about some perfume?' She showed him a bottle costing \$150. 'Too expensive,' muttered Nathan. The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for \$50. 'Oh dear,' Nathan groused, 'still far too much.' Growing rather annoyed at Nathan's meanness, the sales girl brought out a tiny \$10 bottle and offered it to him. Nathan became really agitated, 'What I mean', he whined, 'is I'd like to see something really cheap.' So the sales girl handed him a mirror.

"Thanks for the harmonica you gave me for Christmas," little Joshua said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best Christmas present I ever got. It's making me a lot of money." "Hey, that's great," said his uncle. "You must play it very well." "No, not really," the little fellow said. "I don't play it very well at all." "You don't?" the uncle inquired. "So how do you make money with it?" The boy replied, "Mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night!"

Freddie and John were fortunate enough to have a season ticket to watch the Browns. They could not help noticing that there was always a spare seat next (B14) to them and they had a friend who would love to buy a season ticket, especially if all three could have seats together. One half-time Freddie went to the ticket office and asked if they could buy the season ticket for B14. The official said that unfortunately the ticket had been sold. Nevertheless, week after week the seat was still empty. Then on Boxing day, much to Freddie and Eddie's amazement the seat was taken for the first time that season. John could not resist asking the newcomer, 'Where have you been all season'. Don't ask he said, the wife bought the season ticket back last summer, and kept it for a surprise Christmas present.

Grandpa decided that shopping for Christmas presents had become too difficult. All his grandchildren had everything they needed, so he decided to send them each a check. On each card he wrote: 'Happy Christmas Grandpa' P.S. 'Buy your own present!' Conclusion: Now, while Grandpa enjoyed the family festivities, he thought that his grandchildren were just slightly distant. It preyed on his mind into the New Year. Then one day he was sorting out his study and under a pile of magazines, he found a little pile of checks for his grandchildren. He had completely forgotten to put them in with the Christmas cards.

Christmas Gift Suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

Oren Arnold

# CLAY PIPES

Marcus Lydon Wild Atlantic Way

LORD HA' MERCY!

It's 1915 and an elderly couple set off from their cottage to market in Galway. You might be surprised to see that the only one smoking a pipe is herself but back then, both men and women smoked tobacco from clay pipes, or as they were known in Ireland dúidíns. Every house would have at least one and, although a woman seen smoking a pipe was looked upon by society as crude and backward, in rural areas the women smoked without shame. God knows they had very few other avenues of pleasure.



Clay pipes were very fragile and didn't last long, so great effort was made to look after them. Tapping your clay pipe against a hard surface to dump out tobacco or ashes out was ill advised. The pipe was cleaned by placing it on the coals of a fire where all the residue would burn to ashes, and in fact that process could actually result in making the pipe more durable.

The village of Knockcroghery in County Roscommon was famous for almost 300 years as a center for the production of dúidíns. By the late 1800s, almost the entire village was involved in the manufacture of the pipes with seven different families involved, each with their own kiln. Dúidíns were an important part of an Irish wake. As many as a hundred or more would be purchased and filled with a cheap twist tobacco. Then they were laid out on trays along with whiskey and porter, and passed out to all in attendance. As a pipe was taken, it was customary to say 'Lord have mercy' and, over time, the pipe became known as a 'Lord ha' mercy'.



Clay pipe and medals at the Collins Homestead taken 2003

## IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES IN IRISH HISTORY!!

Dec 1, 1846 ~ The paddle steamer The Londonderry, with immigrants fleeing the famine, takes shelter in Derry harbor. When the covers are removed from the hold it is discovered that 72 men, women and children have suffocated

Dec.1, 1999 - The Good Friday Agreement comes into operation as the British and Irish governments formally notify each other that all the necessary arrangements are in place. The notification ceremony takes place at Iveagh House, St Stephen's Green, headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs, at a joint signing by Foreign Affairs Minister, David Andrews, and the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Peter Mandelson

Dec. 5, 1921 - After lengthy negotiations, the British give the Irish a deadline to accept or reject the Anglo-Irish treaty. In the words of Lloyd George, rejection would mean "immediate and terrible war"

Dec. 6, 1921 - Representatives of the Irish government appointed by President Eamon de Valera, and those negotiating for the Crown sign the Anglo-Irish Treaty, ending the Irish War of Independence against England. Michael Collins declares: "I have signed my own death warrant"

Dec. 6, 1922 - The Irish Free State, Saorstát Éireann, comes into being

Dec. 6 ~ In the liturgical calendar, today is the feast of St. Nicholas.

Dec. 8, 1831 - Death of James Hoban, the Kilkenny architect who designed the White House

Dec. 16, 1922 ~ Arthur Griffith and his ministers assume seat of government at Dublin Castle

Dec. 16, 1987 - Fairytale of New York by the Pogues and Kirsty McColl reaches no. 2 in the British charts

Dec 21. 2001 - The pedestrian Ha'penny Bridge across Dublin's River Liffey is reopened after a multimillion pound restoration

Dec.24, 1889 ~ Captain William O'Shea files for divorce, citing Parnell as his wife Kitty's lover, thus causing moral outrage and the subsequent loss of Parnell's political power

Dec. 25, 1999 - While most parts of the country experience heavy rain and winds, the snow capped Knockmealdown and Comeragh mountains in Co Waterford are picturesque on Christmas Day, particularly for punters who had a flutter on a White Christmas. The presence of snow in many areas costs bookmaker Paddy Power £50,000

Dec. 27, 2000 - A White Christmas arrives late in many parts of the country. The post Christmas whiteout leaves the west and north west blanketed in snow with even offshore islands, where snow rarely lies, covered to a depth of several inches

Dec. 25, 2021 Merry Christmas





### A MESSAGE FROM AOH DIVISION PRESIDENT, ROBERT McMAHON

Thank you to everyone who came out to brave the elements during the Blade Christmas Parade. We had a very nice turnout. Even though it was a little chilly, I think everyone had a great time helping to make the Irish a little more visible in Toledo. Besides carrying our banners, we also distributed over 400 Irish and American flags especially to children along the parade route. It is time to begin preparing for our Shamrock Banquet and St Patrick's Day Celebration in 2022. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping. We have not typically had many January activities except for preparation for the rest of the year.

I have often thought it might be a good time of the year to borrow from our Scottish brothers and have a "Burns" night, or possibly a bowling event. Let me know what you think. Christmas is a wonderful time of year to spend time with family and friends and to consider the manifold gifts God has given to us. The world seems to be a dark place, full of anger and offense. Christ was born into a very similar world, into an humble circumstance. We are called in Charity, Unity and Friendship to carry his light to others and to prepare ourselves and them for the day He returns. It is an ancient Irish custom of putting a candle in the window to be a sign of that light for a proverbial Holy Family in need of succor, as well as a safe place to celebrate Mass. Advent is a time of preparation for that second coming. Perhaps we should be inspired by St. Finnian to return home in love of our family and faith. I hope to see everyone for our Christmas Mass and Party on 4th December in St. Pius X at 6:30 pm. God Bless you. Nollaig Shona Duit!



### A MESSAGE FROM LAOH DIVISION PRESIDENT, ANN DOLLMAN

Seasons Greetings! 2021 has been an interesting year! Our hearts go out to all who have lost a loved one this past year ❤️. Through it all we continue to come together as a family and support one another. Thanks to all who came to walk in the downtown Toledo Holiday parade! I felt proud to be the Irish represented in the parade! Thank you Maureen for bringing the golf cart all "Irished" Up for the parade!

Please join us December 4th for our Christmas party at St Pius community center. We will have Mass at 6:30 followed by dinner. Please bring a dish to pass. We will have ham and some beverages to share. Please bring little items for our Irish Raffle. Proceeds to go to the Historic St Patrick's food pantry. We will have sing along followed by some Ceili dancing! Mary Burns will be showing us a couple of fun group Irish dances!

March 17th we will hold our Family Friendly St Patrick's day party! Looking forward to sharing our heritage with all! Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Prayers for all who are in need and may God keep

us in the palm of his hands! 🍀 ❤️  
Have a Merry Christmas



Dear Heavenly Father, love brought Jesus to the earth, and love brings us to this Christmas table. Today as we share this holiday feast, may we also share with one another a joyful heart and a warm smile. May our Christmas dinner be filled with kindness. And may the memories of today warm our hearts for years to come.

# Nollaig shona duit



## BLARNEY CASTLE

Built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains, Cormac McCarthy, and has been attracting attention ever since. Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney making it a world landmark and one of Ireland's greatest treasures. Now that might have something to do with the Blarney Stone, the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of our tower. Kiss it and you'll never again be lost for words. Kiss The Blarney Stone.

The Stone of Eloquence. For over 200 years, world statesmen, literary giants, and legends of the silver screen have joined the millions of pilgrims climbing the steps to kiss the Blarney Stone and gain the gift of eloquence. Its powers are unquestioned but its story still creates debate. Once upon a time, visitors had to be held by the ankles and lowered head first over the battlements. Today, we are rather more cautious of the safety of our visitors. The Stone itself is still set in the wall below the battlements. To kiss it, one has to lean backwards (holding on to an iron railing) from the parapet walk. The prize is a real one as once kissed the stone bestows the gift of eloquence.

The lower walls are fifteen feet, built with an angle tower by the McCarthys of Muskerry. It was subsequently occupied at one time by Cormac McCarthy, King of Munster, who is said to have supplied four thousand men from Munster to supplement the forces of Robert the Bruce at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Legend has it that the latter king gave half of the Stone of Scone to McCarthy in gratitude. This, now known as the Blarney Stone, was incorporated in the battlements where it can now be kissed. The Earl of Leicester was commanded by Queen Elizabeth I to take possession of the castle. Whenever he endeavored to negotiate the matter McCarthy always suggested a banquet or some other form of delay, so that when the queen asked for progress reports a long missive was sent, at the end of which the castle remained untaken. The queen was said to be so irritated that she remarked that the earl's reports were all 'Blarney'.

The castle was taken in 1646 by Cromwell's General, Lord Broghill, who, planting a gun on Card Hill opposite and above the lake below the present mansion or new castle, succeeded in breaking the tower walls. But when he got there, the castle was completely empty! The main garrison, along with a large golden plate (which Lord Borghill wanted to have), escaped the castle through an underground labyrinth of tunnels. One of these tunnels led to Cork, another to The Lake and the last one even all the way to Kerry. They were too clever for him! These tunnels are now named the Badger Caves and they are partly accessible.

## A WINTER CELEBRATION OF THE SUN

The Winter Solstice for the Northern Hemisphere will occur on Tuesday December 21, 2021 at 10:59 AM EST. This is the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day of the year. During the day, the Northern Hemisphere will have just 8 hours and 46 minutes of daylight.

Throughout history, societies across the world have held festivals and ceremonies marking winter solstice, the day of the "sun's rebirth." Most often, winter solstice celebrations honored the symbolism of fire and light, along with life, death, the rising sun, and the moon. Saturnalia, for example, was an ancient Roman pagan festival dedicated to honoring the sun god Saturn through offerings and gift-giving. Another tradition that we still hear about today is Yule (or Yuletide). Similarly, people continue to mark the solstice with storytelling and ceremony

The earth's tilted axis ( $23.5^\circ$  relative to the ecliptic plane) directly impacts the amount of sunlight we do or don't get throughout the year. This tilt, along with our planet's orbit, creates both astronomical and meteorological seasons. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, "...astronomical seasons are based on the position of Earth in relation to the sun, whereas the meteorological seasons are based on the annual temperature cycle."

When following the astronomical seasons, there are two solstices and two equinoxes to mark the change in meteorological seasons. The winter solstice happens between December 20 and 23, and it's when the earth's axis tilts away from the sun, making it the shortest day and longest night of the year for those living in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, it's reversed. (The word "solstice" derives from the Latin word *sōlstitium* and translates to "sun stands still.") This year, the winter solstice will happen on December 21,

**For the first time in more than 800 years  
Jupiter and Saturn will "kiss" to form the Christmas star.**



**Toledo Hibernian's  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY  
MARCH 17TH, 2022  
Family Friendly Celebration**

**St. Clement Hall  
2990 Tremainsville  
Toledo, Ohio 43613**

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

**THE HIBERNIANS  
C/O MAURY COLLINS  
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*Maurycollins61@gmail.com*

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**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

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**AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**ALL CONTRACTS & MONEY MUST BE IN BY MARCH 6, 2022**

Saint of the Month St. Finnian

Finnian studied for a time in Gaul. He later went to [Wales](#) and continued his studies at the monastery of [Cadoc](#) the Wise. He remained there for years, at prayer and study. Finnian made copies of Rome's classics and of St. Jerome's Vulgate.

Finnian came first to [Aghowle](#) in County Wicklow, where Oengus, the king of Leinster granted him a site. From there, he went to Brigid's monastery at Kildare. Around 520, he was at last led by an angel to Cluain Eairid (Clonard, County Meath) on the River Boyne, which he was told would be the place of his resurrection.

At Clonard Finnian built a little cell and a church of clay and wattle, and entered on a life of study, mortification, and prayer. The fame of his learning and sanctity soon spread, and scholars of all ages flocked from every side to his monastic retreat. Finnian established a monastery modelled on the practices of Welsh monasteries, and based on the traditions of the [Desert Fathers](#) and the study of Scripture. The rule of Clonard was known for its strictness and asceticism.

*The Penitential of Finnian* prescribes penances with a view to correcting sinful tendencies and cultivating the contrary virtue. The document shows wide learning and draws on the teaching of John Cassian on overcoming the eight evil tendencies – gluttony, fornication, covetousness, anger, dejection, accidie (laziness), vainglory and pride (*The Institutes*, Books 5–12).