



Connections

Volume 2

Number 1

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

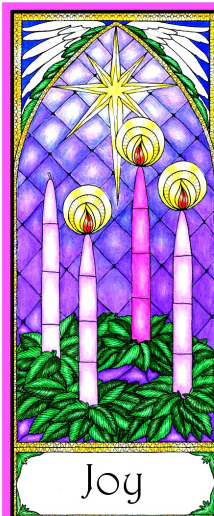
December 1 to 15
2019



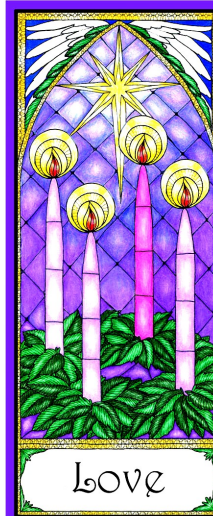
Let us
go
rejoicing
to the
house
of the
Lord.



Justice
shall
flourish
in His
time,
and
fullness
of
peace
for ever.



Lord,
come
and
save us.



Let the
Lord
enter;
He is
king of
glory.



Longest Night Blue Christmas

*Tenderly quiet, when
Christmas brings memories
of happier times.*

Saturday December 21 7pm

Traditional Lessons and Carols

*The story of
Christmas in words
and music.*



Sunday December 22 10am



Family Worship and Pageant

*The children share the
story and the magic of
the season.*

Tuesday December 24 7pm

Unto us a child is born!

*The celebration of our
Lord's birth with Holy
Communion, candlelight
and music.*



Tuesday December 24 10pm



Christmas morning

*Waken to joy and
peace with a
reflective time of
Communion and
prayer.*

Wednesday December 25 10am

New Year's Eve

*Prepare for 2020
with your Christian friends.
Evensong, candles and warm
fellowship.*



Tuesday December 31 5pm

Are you ready for Christmas?

Here's one way to prepare:

- On Advent Sunday, December 1, read the first chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. Just one chapter. Read it in the morning, before you go to bed, or whenever fits your lifestyle.
- On Monday, read chapter 2.
- Continue reading one chapter every day. Just one chapter.
- There are twenty-four chapters in the Gospel of Luke, so you will read the last chapter on December 24 .
 - And when you wake up Christmas morning you will really know who and what you are celebrating.



Saturday, December 14 Decorating and Clean-up time!

Starting around 9:30am, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. This is not a Chancel Guild "exclusive" - everybody is welcome to come and be part of this happy task.

Also on that day we are asking all group leaders who think they might have items belonging to their group in the storage room off the lower hall to drop by and see Deacon Jacquie to identify them. We are trying to rationalize our very limited storage space, starting with this large room. Any items which have not been claimed by a parish group by the end of the year will be discarded. So if your group's treasures are buried there, please come and identify them so we can allocate space as needed.



Too many calendars

We all receive unsolicited calendars at this time of year. They come from charities, banks, politicians, stores and as gifts. Some are beautiful, but there is a limit to the number you can use. If you have more than you want, please DO NOT discard them. Our Deacon's Cupboard clients often ask for them, so please bring your surplus calendars to church and put them in the food basket.



We are asked to remember in our prayers

Anne S, Annet K, Beverly B, Cathy N, Coreen L, David M, Deb A, Diane R, Florence S, Jeanette M, Jenille L, Joan N, Margaret R, Michelle B, Viggie M.



Scripture Readings

December 1 - Isaiah 2: 1 to 5, Psalm 122, Romans 13: 11 to 14, Matthew 24: 36 to 44

December 8 - Isaiah 11: 1 to 10, Psalm 72: 1 to 7 and 18 to 19, Romans 15: 4 to 13, Matthew 3: 1 to 12

December 15 - Isaiah 35: 1 to 10, Psalm 146: 5 to 10, James 5: 7 to 10, Matthew 11: 2 to 11



Christmas Customs around the World

Christmas celebrations in different countries are dependent on local culture, traditions and sometimes, the weather.

In **Australia**, December 25 falls during summer vacation, so many Christmas festivities take place outdoors. The most popular event is called Carols by Candlelight. People come together at night to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside.

In **Sweden**, Christmas festivities begin on December 13 with St. Lucia's Day, celebrating the patron saint of light. The eldest daughter gets up before dawn and dresses as the "Queen of Light" in a long white dress. She wears a crown of leaves and lighted candles. Singing "Santa Lucia," the Lucia Queen goes to every bedroom to serve coffee and treats to each member of the family.

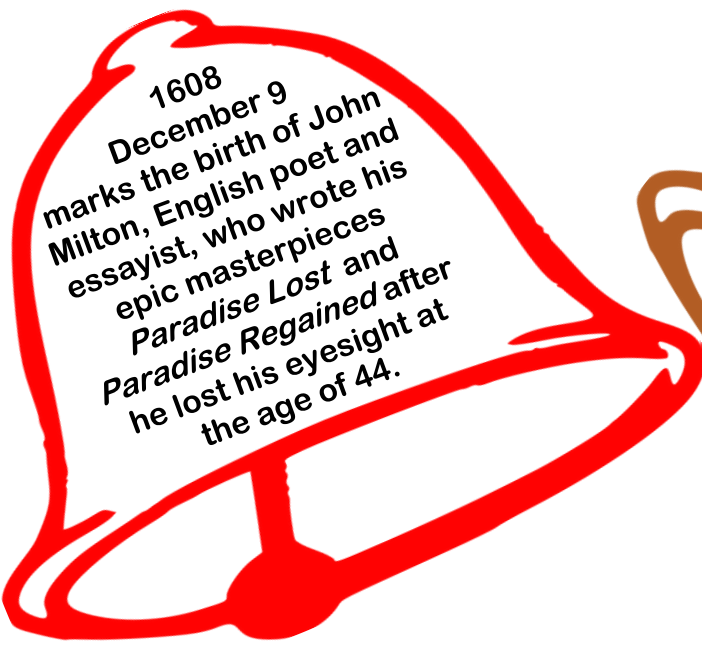
The small number of Christians in **China** call Christmas Sheng Dan Jieh, which means Holy Birth Festival. They decorate their homes with evergreens, posters, and bright paper chains. The family puts up a Christmas tree, called "tree of light," and decorates it with beautiful lanterns, flowers, and red paper chains that symbolize happiness. On Christmas Eve, children hang up their stockings so Dun Che Lao Ren, or "Christmas Old Man," can fill them with gifts. Santa Claus may also be called Lan Khoong-Khoong, "Nice Old Father."

More countries in our next issue

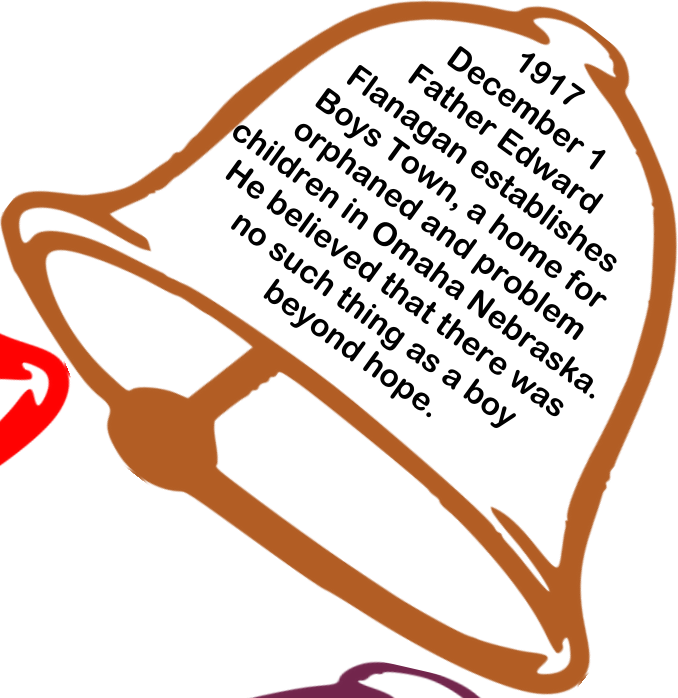
CHRIST CHURCH WOOLLY TREE

Our Woolly Tree will be set up on Sunday December 1 for donations of hats, mitts, gloves, scarves, socks and other cold weather necessities. These will be distributed at the Community Christmas lunch on December 21. Any remainder will go to Scarborough Village Residence.






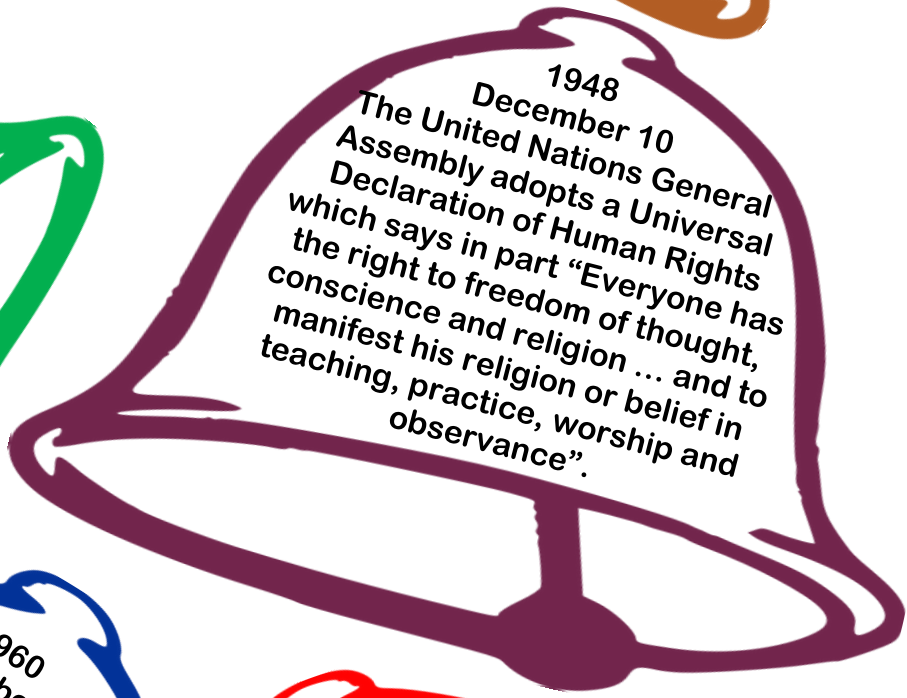
1608
December 9
marks the birth of John
Milton, English poet and
essayist, who wrote his
epic masterpieces
Paradise Lost and
Paradise Regained after
he lost his eyesight at
the age of 44.



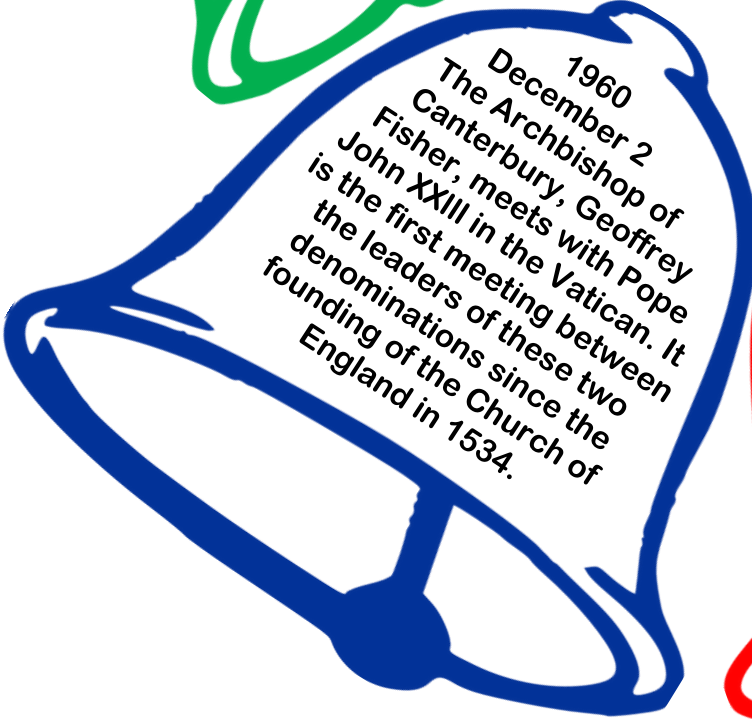
1917
December 1
Father Edward
Flanagan establishes
Boys Town, a home for
orphaned and problem
children in Omaha Nebraska.
He believed that there was
no such thing as a boy
beyond hope.



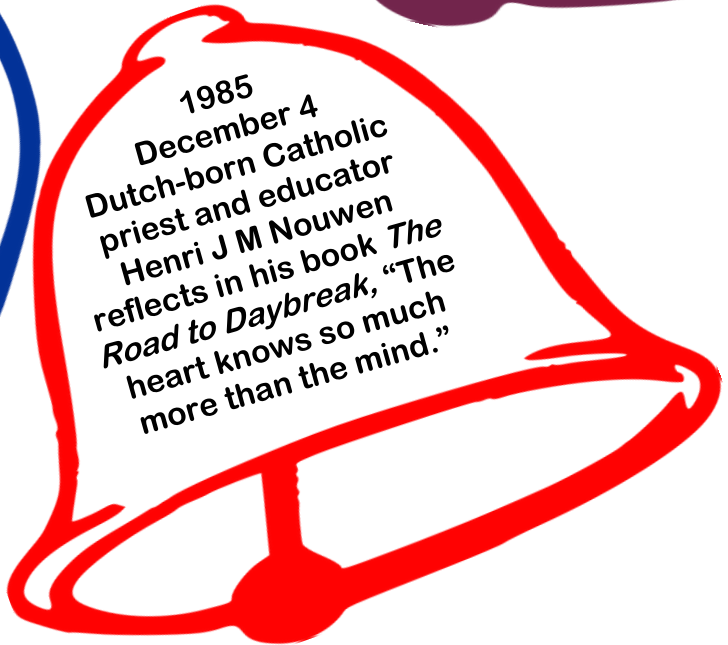
1917
December 9
The Ottoman Empire
surrenders Jerusalem
to the British after 700
years of Turkish rule. It
remained a British protectorate
until the establishment of the
State of Israel in 1948.



1948
December 10
The United Nations General
Assembly adopts a Universal
Declaration of Human Rights
which says in part "Everyone has
the right to freedom of thought,
conscience and religion ... and to
manifest his religion or belief in
teaching, practice, worship and
observance".



1960
December 2
The Archbishop of
Canterbury, Geoffrey
Fisher, meets with Pope
John XXIII in the Vatican. It
is the first meeting between
the leaders of these two
denominations since the
founding of the Church of
England in 1534.



1985
December 4
Dutch-born Catholic
priest and educator
Henri J M Nouwen
reflects in his book *The
Road to Daybreak*, "The
heart knows so much
more than the mind."