



### *Christmas - Happy Christmas - Welcome*

We welcome all who come to join us in our celebration of Christmas this year. It is a very special time in our year when as Christians we celebrate the good news of Christ's birth and the significance of Jesus Christ in the history of the world. His lasting influence on world history and his challenging values, of a call to love, respect and accept all people, treating them in a just way are values that our world needs to hear and heed this year. For people of faith Jesus offers us hope, assurance and his comforting presence, as we navigate the challenges of each individual life. It is also a time when we come to be with family and friends and share the love we bring into each other's lives. We welcome home all of you who have travelled to be with family and friends this Christmas time. We remember with love and affection loved ones who were with us in other years and have now gone from our world to experience the joy of now being in the presence of God as promised by Jesus Christ. So as we celebrate this Joyful Season may Christ be in our hearts, on our lips and in our minds enabling us to bring the peace and joy the angels heralded on the First Christmas night to those we know, meet and are vulnerable in our time.

### *Thank you*

A very special word of thanks to the very many people who help and volunteer to do various tasks in our parish. We are blessed by the presence of these people in our parish community of Clarecastle/Ballyea. We are especially grateful to all who have worked so hard in the past year by generously and freely giving of their time, talents and energy to parish events and especially in preparation of our Christmas celebrations. Without the help of so many people it simply would not be possible to celebrate Christmas as we do. An enormous effort is put into the preparations of each liturgical event and of the seasonal celebration of Christmas, and when we come and participate in these events we often take for granted the dedication and preparations and others have invested in the joyful experiences we feel on these occasions. So a **big thank you** to all who do this great work, no doubt Santa has come today to the children of our parish, may the joy, wonder and magic of this moment for our children be infectious. May the **love** that is **Santa Claus** be shared within families the whole year through.

So to each and every person who assists us in building and celebrating community we say a major **"Thank you"**. Let us remember our parish motto:

**"Many stones an arch doth make, singly none"**

**Fr Harry & Fr. Pat wish each and every person a very Happy Christmas and a Joy blessed 2026. They assure all a Remembrance in their masses on Christmas Day.**