



**Tuesday's Child** - Following Yonder Star Christmas Appeal helping children exhausted by war, famine and extreme hardship in: Gaza, Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, India, Pakistan, Brazil, Tanzania. All donations received go to catholic missionaries and diocesan priests caring for children. Visit [www.tuesdayschild.ie](http://www.tuesdayschild.ie)

**Bambinelli Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Gaudete Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Gaudete means rejoice. and on this feast day we rejoice because we are almost at Christmas, the day when we celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world, the greatest gift we have ever been given. To mark the feast, our parish will join with parishes around the world in celebrating the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday. We invite each family in the parish to bring the figure of Jesus from the family crib to the Masses on Sunday 14th of December, where they will be blessed. A suggestion is, following the blessing, take your "bambinelli" home and place it in a gift box, wrap it, and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas Day, when together you place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib, and have a home blessing of the Nativity for your whole family.

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**Trocaire:** 'Gifts of Change' are gifts that transform lives, bringing real hope and opportunities to families and communities living in poverty. There are 24 Gifts to choose from starting at £5 for the 'Gift of Soap' for families in war-torn South Sudan. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support. You can buy a Gift and help change lives this Christmas by going online at [www.trocaire.org/gifts](http://www.trocaire.org/gifts), calling [0800 912 1200](tel:08009121200) or visiting our office at **60 Berry Street, Belfast, BT1 1FJ.**

**Stella Maris brings Christmas joy to seafarers and fishers.** Being at sea over the Christmas period is a tough reality many seafarers and fishers face, often under challenging conditions. "While many of us look forward to gathering with loved ones to celebrate the birth of Christ, many seafarers and fishers will spend the season away from their homes and families, and for some, it can be a particularly lonely time," said Brian Rances, the new Stella Maris regional chaplain for Northern Ireland. For years Stella Maris has been delivering Christmas presents to seafarers and fishers visiting ships in ports across the diocese. This year will be Brian's first opportunity to personally distribute these gifts, and he is looking forward to continuing the tradition. "We have already started to receive chocolates, biscuits, woolly hats, gloves and toiletries from local parishes and supporters. These will be given out to seafarers and fishers in Belfast Harbour, Warrenpoint Port, Londonderry Port, Kilkeel and Ardglass," Brian explained. "Sharing these Christmas gifts with seafarers and fishers is one way of showing them that they are appreciated and valued by the community here in Northern Ireland. It can be a source of joy and comfort for those at sea during this season. It is a gesture of care and solidarity." Those wishing to help seafarers and fishers this Christmas can donate at [stellamaris.org.uk/christmas](http://stellamaris.org.uk/christmas). Every contribution makes a difference.