



1897 the editor of the New York Sun received the following letter.

"DEAR EDITOR:

I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's true.'

"Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus"?

Virginia O'Hanlon.

He knew immediately that it was dynamite; how could he answer the question. He passed on the letter to a sub-editor named Francis Church who wrote an editorial in reply. It was to become one of the most famous editorials ever written and still answers the age old question "Is there a Santa

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life it's highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus coming down the chimney, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? The most real things in the world are those that neither adults nor children can see. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not even the strongest man could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, and romance can push aside that curtain and view the supernal beauty beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing more real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today we light the fourth advent candle, the candle of peace. The lighting of this candle echoes the song of the angels,

"peace on earth to people of good will"

The coming saviour was to proclaim a new kingdom, not a kingdom won and ruled by power or force, but a kingdom of justice and peace, a kingdom where God's values reigned. Our time of waiting is almost over, the day of our saviour is at hand. We pray: Come Lord Jesus do not delay !



Christmas Programme

The timetable of ceremonies etc. for Christmas and the New Year are available at various points around the church. We would ask you to take one home with you. The timetable for the Polish community celebrations are also available on the same sheet.

Confessions on 23rd & 24th December are 11.30am —1.00 pm and 2.30– 3.30 pm.

The mass Collection last Week was €1,405.00

The Shrines last week were €3,245.00

Thank you for your generosity

We are most grateful for your continuous support.

So ye're homeless too? I'm afraid all the hostels are full.

