



# THE TRINITY TIMES

Welcome to the festive edition of *The Trinity Times*. This issue is packed with festive fun to get you in the Christmas spirit!

In this edition, we explore the magic of Christmas traditions, take you inside a Filipino home during Christmas, and tell you all about Mrs. Henvey's Christmas plans!

We hope you enjoy reading this special issue, and from all of us at *The Trinity Times*, Merry Christmas.



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# *Christmas in a Filipino Home*

By Mark Talla – 8R

As a Filipino Christian, Christmas Eve is one of the best and most important nights in a year for my family. We have Noche Buena, a grand dinner that we eat after going to the Christmas Eve service. We all help in the preparation of the foods such as lechon, spaghetti, queso de bola and ham which are the common foods for the celebration.

At midnight, we sit around the table, say our prayers and then eat. It is not only the meal but the appreciation of the Lord's blessings in the year and the celebration of the birth of Christ.

A Time for  
Togetherness and  
Tradition.

In a Filipino home,  
Christmas is all  
about gathering  
with loved one,  
enjoying delicious  
food, and  
celebrating  
traditions that feel  
like home.





My favourite Christmas treats are bibingka and puto bumbong. These are the traditional rice cakes which are sold outside the church during the Simbang Gabi masses and the warmth of the sweet taste always brings me back to Christmas. For snacks on Christmas Eve, I also have leche flan and fresh fruits or always a fruit salad. The following treats add to the fun of the celebration because they are not foods we get to take usually during other occasions.

My family also enjoys watching Christmas movies during the year end holidays. The best one is Home Alone, no matter how many times we watch it, it is funny all the time. We also watch Filipino Christmas specials such as those from Eat Bulaga or any other local shows. These moments gather all people, and it is good to have a rest and feel the atmosphere of the holiday.



There is one tradition that we have in the Philippines that I try to observe and that is the Simbang Gabi which is nine masses before Christmas. It is a tradition in the Philippines and those who finish all nine masses are said to have a wish granted.

Our family also sing Christmas carols in our church and some of the Filipino Christmas songs we sing include “Ang Pasko ay sumapit” and “Pasko na naman”. This always makes everyone happy.



# 5 minutes with...



**Mrs. Henvey**



**What is your most embarrassing story?**

When I was 17 I was asked to be a Godmother to my baby cousin. I was really proud but very nervous. It was a hot day, and I was wearing a smart suit. Just after I passed my cousin to the Father, I fainted at the altar!

**What would you teach if you couldn't teach Maths?**

English - I studied English literature at A Level and loved it.

**Cats or dogs?**

I'm not an animal person and have never had a pet. I know dogs are loyal and loving but I like the idea that cats pretty much look after themselves. So, maybe cats?

**Who's your favourite sibling?**

I couldn't possibly say! I love them both very much, I'm lucky that I work with my sister and see her nearly everyday, and my brother lives 5 minutes away from me. We are all very close.

**Hobbies?**

Spending time with my family, listening to music and podcasts and reading. I am also interested in politics and current affairs, but also love watching reality TV!

**What's a Christmas tradition that you follow?**

Going to the cinema with my dad & setting up the tree on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Favourite Christmas movie?**

I would have to say Home Alone because I watched it as a child and now watch it with my husband and children every Christmas. We know Christmas has begun when Home Alone goes on in our house.

**What are your plans for this Christmas?**

Mrs. Jones is having Christmas at her house this year, so I'll be there, making and enjoying a lot of food!



# A Christmas Poem

## by Asma Hussain – 10A

Beneath the flow of twinkling lights,  
Beyond the snow of winter nights,  
Amid the carols soft and sweet,  
The heart of Christmas gently beats.

It's not gift in ribbons tied,  
Or feasts where laughter can't be denied.  
It's not the wreaths on every door,  
Nor tinsel draped from room to floor.

The true meaning lies in something pure,  
A timeless love that will endure –  
A gift that neither fades nor wanes,  
A hope that heals life's deepest pain.

It's in the peace that angels sing,  
The humble bird of Heaven's King.

In manger's straw, beneath the star,  
A light that reaches near and far.

It's in the hands that help and share,  
The hearts that kneel in quiet prayer.  
In giving more than we receive,  
In choosing faith, in choose to believe.

For Christmas, isn't gold or gleam,  
It's love fulfilled, a sacred dream.  
A call to care, a chance to start,  
To find Christ, within our heart.

So as we gather, one and all,  
Let kindness be our greatest call.  
For in that love, both vast and small,  
We find the meaning of it all.



# Cultural Moments



What's your favourite Christmas food or treat?

Sonhos which means dreams in English. It's a Portuguese fried dough coated with cinnamon sugar. My mum also makes flan.

Are there any traditions your family keep up?

My family mostly celebrates Christmas on Christmas Eve so that is when we open presents - at midnight.

Do you attend Church, carol or religious events during Christmas?

We attend Christmas Mass or attend church on the Sunday closest to Christmas Day.

Do you have a special family Christmas traditions for Christmas eve?

On Christmas Eve, we play a cup game where everyone gets a turn to choose a cup and underneath there is a prize such as money or sweets.

What's your favourite Christmas food or treat?

Christmas lunch with all the trimmings.

Does your family have a favourite game they play during Christmas?

One night where all our family come together and we all have a Christmas movie night, and play games like Monopoly.

Does your family have a favourite game they play during Christmas?

Cards and Scrabble.

What's your favourite Christmas food or treat?

Gingerbread biscuits and home baked pies.

Is there a special Christmas movie/show your family watched every year?

Home Alone.

Do you attend Church, carol or religious events during Christmas?

Church with the whole family.





# BRAVO BARCELONA

By Aisha Fazeel – 10S

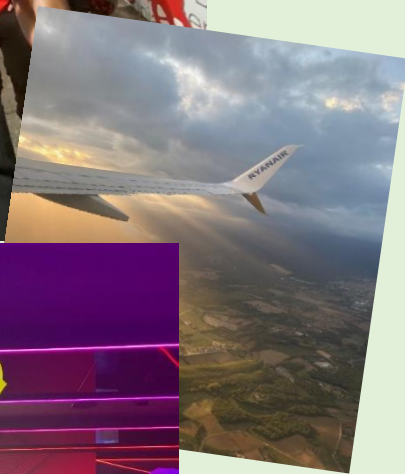
Barcelona was an exciting, fun and an amazing experience where lots of memories were made, with our friends and teachers.

My favourite activity from the trip was the theme park (Portaventura theme park) and the weather that day was perfect. I also had a nice lunch along with some ice cream, which was really yummy.

My most memorable moment was walking around at night and relaxing in the hostel with my friends, while playing card games. I liked the atmosphere in the hostel and it was calm and fun, especially after a long day of walking and activities. Another memorable moment was when I accidentally got hand sanitiser sprayed into my eyes and the bathroom wasn't open so I couldn't wash it out my eyes!

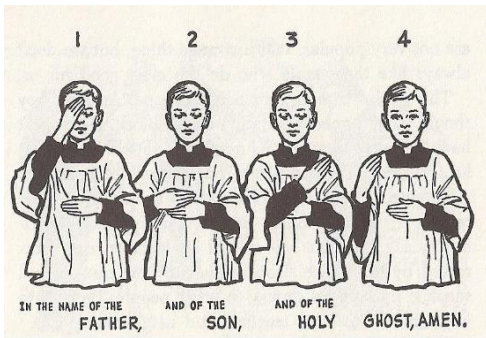
I picked up some local Spanish lingo, phrases such as: 'cuanto cuesta?', 'gracias', 'por favor' - hopefully this will come in handy for future trips <3

Thank you to everyone involved in organising this once in a lifetime trip - Bravo Barcelona!





# *A Moment Of Reflection*



God of joy,  
remind me to rejoice.  
Wrapped up in my  
Christmas gifts,  
tied down in my debts,  
I have forgotten.

God of peace,  
remind me of your  
calm.  
In my anxiety  
and in my haste,  
I have forgotten.

God of all,  
remind me  
of the true light of  
Christmas,  
of your gift shared.

In my own wants  
and in my own needs  
I have forgotten.  
Wrapped up in my little  
world,  
remind me of your  
world.

God of joy, remind me  
to rejoice.

Amen.

# Good Things

POCKETS OF JOY FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Rare giant  
anteater  
pup born in  
UK park  
riding on  
mum's  
back.

'Thoughtful Tuesday'  
to continue until we  
break up - voluntary  
monetary donations  
will help towards the  
Christmas hampers.

Wednesday, 18  
December

Whole school  
Christmas lunch for  
teachers and  
students.

Friday, 20 December

Non – uniform /  
wear a Christmas  
jumper for teachers  
and students.

Bright Nebulae will  
be easy to view in  
mid-December



1,000 endangered  
animals set to  
return home to  
Madagascar in anti-  
trafficking victory.



## Round 2 : Films

- Which actor landed the starring role for 'Jingle all the way'?
- Who wants to steal Christmas?
- Who resurrected Frosty in 'Frosty the Snowman'?
- Why was the Grinch so mean?
- Which 1990 film tells the story of a boy whose house is robbed at Christmas?
- Which 1988 film is John McClane called on to save his wife and other hostages?
- Which Christmas film has the tagline 'Everytime a bell rings, an angel gets its wings'?
- In The Muppet Christmas Carol, who played Scrooge?
- What is the name of the Elf played by Will Ferrell in the 2003 film Elf?
- Two rival fathers battle it out for a Turbo-Man action figure in which 1996 American Christmas Comedy?

## Christmas Word Search

**Instructions:** Try to find all of the hidden Christmas words in the word search puzzle below (Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, diagonally, up, or down.)

```

NMAQLGJB NXRESPZHQQYLA EVFL
TLGNYLLTUYWC EXDFHX XDSOFXY
PAHUVPYQJYE AASYVDLEUTHCBG
JHQRAVXEZACNSRBVENTCUJVOJ
MWCYULEVDYBDOB DGJYZHMMOIC
BUYKVIWBPBYSYNVMWBF IIPWLJQ
VILYBHVRMDACJIBUGHBMPDNHB
ORRTNWFIELUAMIGBPTMNDIHLM
LKSGZATLAAQNI BHKZNB EURGJO
OPACGTNJAETESIRPTFJYWXNDY
HAAFEOUXJJNHTERQLTCSDFOHQ
MELNEMFHB OGYLOEOVOMCEGYJV
WWSLJTVRNGYDES LCSDDOJHBLV
SXHTPSRAO OGLTHISFPUULKHCJ
VZHQ LHTVJSDCOLYFIBVERUJDR
INUWWSQKINTDEFLGKIGVDJR L Y
JWKJGNZFASRYORTICNOTLASYP
SPLPCGXCHKYXDWTLANCTCREYD
    
```

### Word List

ANGEL	COCOA	NOEL
CANDLE	FROSTY	RUDOLPH
CANDYCANE	JOY	SEASON
CARD	MISTLETOE	WREATH
CHIMNEY	MITTENS	YULE



“  
Two elves were born on Christmas Eve. When the first elf was six years old, the second elf was half his age. How old will the second elf be when the first elf is 100?”

- Arnold Schwarzenegger
- The Grinch
- Santa Claus
- His heart was two sizes too small
- Home Alone
- Die Hard
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Michael Caine
- Buddy
- Jingle All The Way

## Round 2 : Answers

# HTCS SPORT

## **Year 7 Football**

Yardley School - WON 4-2  
BOA School - WON 2-0  
Small Heath School - LOST 3-0  
Waverley School - LOST 5-4

## **Year 8 Football**

BOA School - LOST 2-0

## **Year 9 Football**

Starbank School - WON 6-1  
KESH School - LOST 4-2  
Small Heath School - WON 4-1

## **Year 10 Football**

Ark Boulton - WON 13-0  
Cockshut Hill - WON 10-0  
Small Heath school - WON 5-0  
Moseley school - WON 6-0

## **Year 11 Football**

Waverley school - WON 4-0

## **Year 7/8 Table Tennis**

Moseley School - WON 8-2  
Cockshut School - DRAW 5-5  
Small Heath - DRAW 5-5

## **Year 10/11 Badminton**

1<sup>st</sup> place

Riddle:

*'I am a Holy Trinity Pupil, and I can achieve anything'*

When the first elf is 100, the second will be 97.

Learn to Love, Love to Learn