

FIFTH CLASS READINGS

READER: _____

In Ireland today people still leave home for many reasons. They go to seek a better life abroad or they go to escape a miserable life at home.

READER: _____

They leave when they cannot keep their life together because of sickness, unhappiness, money troubles or violence. Some of them don't go very far but even a short distance is enough to make them feel homeless

READER: _____

Every year we make a collection of toys for Focus Ireland. This month we had a visitor from Focus Ireland. Lisa explained to us how some people can become homeless. Des Hirsch is a man who has reason to be grateful to Focus Ireland.

READER: _____

When he was 58 years of age he had to take time off work because of suspected epilepsy. He lost his job, then his home and ended up living in his car on the Clontarf seafront from August 2002 to November 2003.

READER: _____

Often we imagine that homeless people probably didn't finish school, probably hadn't had a decent job and probably had a drug or alcohol problem. Des did not fit this stereotype. He went to a private school and then to Trinity College. He was a manager in his family's business and he lost his job because of his health.

READER: _____

Bing Crosby recorded 'I'll Be Home for Christmas' in 1943 and it instantly topped the charts as the one of America's most popular holiday songs along with 'White Christmas'. It touched the hearts of the soldiers and civilians alike who were still going through World War II.

READER: _____

In December 1965, when the astronauts Frank Borman and James Lovell were returning to Earth after setting a record for the longest flight in the US space program aboard Gemini 7 spacecraft, they requested this carol to be played for them.

READER: _____

I'll be home for Christmas;
You can count on me.
Please have snow and mistletoe
And presents on the tree.

READER: _____

Christmas Eve will find me
Where the love-light gleams.
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams.

READER: _____

Sixth class are going to do a dance now to a song that has been a favourite in North Bay for many years. The song Stop The Cavalry is about a man away at war who wishes he could be home for Christmas.

READER: _____

This Christmas we are glad to have our homes. We thank our families and friends who make our homes places where we feel safe and loved.