

aerítir
par avion



Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Murphy,
2550 - 31st Avenue,
San Francisco 16, California,
U. S. A.

aérogramme

Má bhíonn aon ní istigh leis an aerítir seo is leis an gnáthphost a seolfar í
If anything is enclosed this letter will be sent by ordinary mail

Ainm agus seoladh an tseoltóra
Sender's name and address

REV. G. MARRIN
St. Columba's
Navan

Gearr anseo Cut here

An chéad fhilleadh anseo First fold here

An dara fhilleadh anseo Second fold here

St. Columban's,
Navan.

4 January 1972.

Dear Maurice and Alice,

Many thanks for your Christmas card. I'm afraid that I have lost the habit of sending cards myself. But still it is nice to get them. I didn't get yours till today. It was delayed for some time by going to Killiney. As you can see from the above address, I have been transferred back to Navan. And they don't always send mail promptly from Killiney. There is a good deal of coming and going between here and Killiney and they generally wait till somebody will be coming to Navan and let him take the mail. But as often as not he forgets and then you wait for the next courier. If they would just readdress the letters we would get them much faster.

Sorry that you are not going to make Europe this year, but as far as Ireland is concerned you are not going to miss much. The trouble is not getting better but rather worse. And most people think that it is only a matter of time till it spreads south of the Border. Certainly the description of Ireland in the old song as "the most distressful country that ever I have seen" never fitted it more than it does now, at least since famine days.

I thought for a while after leaving Killiney that I would be going back to the U. S., to Omaha. I almost had my visa secured when there was a change of plan. It suited me all right. The only near relatives I have in the U. S. now are my brother and his wife. They live in New Jersey and it would be as easy to visit them from here as from Omaha. It would certainly be cheaper on a charter flight. But in any case they want to come and live in Ireland this year. First they were attracted to the North of Ireland, as most of our friends and relatives are there but, with the trouble here, they are thinking in terms of the South now. But by the time they come it may be as bad here.

I expect you enjoyed your trips to Hawaii. I have been there a couple of times on my way to and back from Japan, but only while the ship anchored there. It is a beautiful spot, but I understand it is very expensive now. But then, you might say, what place isn't. Hotel fares in Ireland are going up all the time and tourists are getting fewer. The trouble in the North has something to do with it, but I would say the prices have an effect too. People can get package deals for holidays in Spain or somewhere like that. It costs them less. They have a real change scene. And they have guaranteed sunshine, which we can't give them here.

I had a note from Fr. Billy Smith for Christmas. There is a good deal of trouble where he is with the Moslems. For all practical purposes there is war between them and the Christians, and the Moslems are in the majority. Lots of Catholic families have fled to other parts and some of our schools have had to close down. There have been even more deaths than in the North of Ireland.

Well, all the best now for 1972. And at prayer time say one for me.

Love.

G. Marinan