

The King's Way

The Kingsway in Etobicoke is a beautiful residential neighborhood. The homes are stately and the landscaping is impeccable. The entire streetscape is most pleasing to the eye. Throughout this area there are festive winter urns in front of grand doorways and seasonal outdoor lighting aloft in many of the mature trees. Unless you are careful, you might miss one of the special, spiritual, outdoor attractions found each Christmas at 40 King Georges Rd. At this Kingsway address, a humble woman who answers to the name of "Grandma" takes great care and assembles, a simple Christmas nativity scene. She uses items that she has collected, items that have been discarded and thrown away. She has small plastic dolls that she carefully dresses with pieces of used fabric. She makes a lovely blue veil for Mother Mary, a tunic for St. Joseph, and swaddling blankets for baby Jesus. There are angels, animals, and shepherds, present in the cave that is a plastic Tupperware container tipped on its side. Grandma shows great imagination and love when she assembles her Nativity scene in front of her home where she has lived with her husband, and family, for over 60 years. She wants to share her faith with those who visit her husband's medical clinic, located at the back of the house, and with those who are simply walking by. She visually retells the great mystery of the Incarnation of God in a way that the Holy Family would love. I have seen hundreds of Christmas Nativity sets over the years. They are all beautiful in their own way. I have seen Nativity figures carved from olive wood, made from plastic, china and clay, created with sublime artistic detail. There is something unique, however, about Grandma's Nativity scene. Her's is a scene that embraces poverty. You see, Grandma gives second life to these small dolls and items that she has found. She cleans them and clothes them with love. This is not common in our throw away world. She spends her time creating and giving birth to her project. This makes it very special. She shares her love for Jesus and for the Christmas miracle in a small way. St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata reminds us that as "saints we are called to do simple things with great love for God."

The lowly birth of Jesus in a stable transforms our understanding of poverty. Our God loves us so much that he became poor, that we might become rich. This was Jesus, our king's "way" of showing us His love.

The tradition of the Christmas nativity scene was initially an idea of St. Francis of Assisi, first started in the 13th century in present day Italy. St. Francis had been to the Holy Land and had visited the holy Bethlehem site (stable) where Jesus is said to have been born. He found this experience to be powerful. He wrote to the Pope and received permission to create the first Nativity scene, initially using real animals and people. He used this as a teaching aid to instruct the poor about the humble birth of Jesus our King. Families, churches, and institutions, that assemble these scenes continue this holy tradition. Remember, if you look for Jesus you will find him everywhere, even on your home street and on the Kingsway.

Brian Finamore, Chaplain



The Christmas season is a special time in all of our lives. This is especially true for young children. We all try our best to make sure that children feel loved at Christmas. We like to celebrate and exchange gifts. May we always remember that children are God's **greatest gift** to the world, regardless of where they are born. Our world quickly forgets this on December 26. We hope and pray that you were able to celebrate Christmas with family and loved ones? In this picture we see the grandchildren of Eva-Marie Moffat. Eva-Marie is the Executive Director of Canadian Food For Children. She is the daughter of Andrew and Joan Simone. All of the Simone children, 14, in total, support CFFC. I'm sure that we are looking at the next generation of CFFC volunteers?



Canadian Food for Children

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Shipment Weights by Country Summary for:

2021

	# of Shipments	Weight (kgs)	(Metric Tonnes) [=kgs/1000]	(Pounds) [=kgs *2.205]	(Tons) [=Pounds / 2000]
Angola	23	381,878	382	842,041	421
Cameroon	1	18,313	18	40,380	20
DOMINICA	4	62,928	63	138,756	69
EL SALVADOR	115	1,825,407	1,825	4,025,022	2,012
Guatemala	2	29,724	30	65,541	33
HAITI	9	145,071	145	319,882	160
HONDURAS	21	333,058	333	734,393	367
Jamaica	15	233,635	234	515,165	258
Malawi	9	146,445	146	322,911	161
PERU	46	714,640	715	1,575,781	788
Sierra Leone	24	398,940	399	879,663	440
Zambia	12	176,828	177	389,906	195
Total	281	4,466,867	4,467	9,849,442	4,925

Do you want to FAST this Lent? ~ Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.