

The Crib

In 1956, Fr. Louis Coffey had an idea. He wanted to bring the Bible alive for the children of Ireland, but with a Christmas focus and using, what was at the time, quite advanced mechanical figures. After much thought, discussions and planning The Moving Crib was born.

In the first year, the attraction was literally the crib scene, with a stable and moving figures. This proved so popular and attractive that in the next few years the crib was extended to its present size. Frank Pringle was the master craftsman who built all the scenes, including a magnificent Noah's ark. Another contributor in more recent times was Cormac Larkin, the renowned Dublin artist. He painted the background to later scenes and repainted some of the older scenes.

The Moving Crib first opened in our original premises of 30 Parnell Square before being moved to 42 Parnell square in 1977.

One ever popular attraction in the crib is the preserved and stuffed figure of a dog. It has been there for quite a number of years and the quoted reason for his presence is that we thought he deserved to be remembered because he was reputed to have saved three people from drowning in the River Liffey. Did he really dive in three times to save one person or three people or did this stuffed dog come in as a contribution for the jumble sales, which the Apostolate used to have? Well, whether a true hero or just a stuffed dog imbued with heroism as well as saw dust, he makes a wonderful attraction for the children – who love the idea of the hero dog.

The emotions of the children on seeing the dog for the first time vary from admiration to puzzlement and even tears. 'How would you like to be stuffed?' one young dog loving child was heard to say as the tears poured. But the background story of the hero dog quickly soothed the child and the tears were replaced with smiles.

The Moving Crib

OPEN -	Nov 23 rd to Jan 10 th
TIMES -	Mon – Friday from 2pm to 6pm Sat, Sun & Holidays from 11.30 to 6pm
School Groups	Open at your convenience. Pre-booking is advised to avoid disappointment.
Call	Marie on 01 874 5465
Email	crib@stmartin.ie
On-line	www.stmartin.ie/moving-crib/

