



Dear friends,

Christmas is fast approaching and we would like to let you know about a couple of upcoming events.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is excited to announce the second **To Be Irish @ Christmas** campaign. Originally launched last year, To Be Irish @ Christmas is about creating meaningful connections with the Irish diaspora and with those who have a grá for, or who are interested, in Ireland and Irish culture around the world.

In 2020 a programme of over 200 events as well as 100 personal stories were shared by the Irish community around the world.

This year To Be Irish @ Christmas will run from 8 - 23 December with an exciting festive programme of online and offline events. Our platform provides an opportunity for the Irish around the world to showcase events, stories, community initiatives, seasonal traditions, crafts and much more to a global audience. Join us in celebrating Irish culture this Christmas time!

**Do you have an event or story that you would like to share?**

**Then please visit [To Be Irish | To Be Irish](#) for more information and registration.**

### Embassy Family Christmas Party

Ambassador Parkin is delighted to announce the return of the Embassy Christmas Party on Sunday 12 December from 15.00 - 17.00. This will be a family friendly event with a focus on including children aged 12 and under.

Please register your interest in attending by sending an email to [eventshelsinki@dfa.ie](mailto:eventshelsinki@dfa.ie) by Monday 22 November. Formal invitations will then be sent to those families who have expressed interest in attending. Please note that space will be limited.

*Last year as part of the To Be Irish @ Christmas campaign, Ambassador Parkin had a very special call with Santa Claus up in Rovaniemi. And, as part of the Extraordinary Stories we heard of Philip Burgess, an Irishman in the Arctic. Click on the images below, to watch the videos from last year.*

