



Shop Smart: Support local business

Ethical Gifts

Helen O'Callaghan

With donations to charity decimated by Covid-19, it's more important than ever to opt for ethical gifts this Christmas. In times of crisis like now, choosing gifts that make a difference will significantly raise the global goodwill and positivity factor.



Merry Christmas



To protect communities from Covid-19, Concern has Tippy Taps – foot-powered taps allowing user wash hands safely without having to touch anything. €15 provides 10 Tippy Taps to communities globally where Concern works. Radio (€15) helps a community tune into the world around them – in a crisis knowledge protects. And in times of safety, a radio gives hours of entertainment, gifts.concern.net; email gifts@concern.net; phone 1850 458400.

Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) has launched their first Christmas postcard, designed by Marguerite Keating who lives with dementia – pack of six postcards with two festive designs (€5). Also 12 Christmas Cards (€5), 2021 Calendar featuring landscape/nature images (€10) and 'A Taste to Remember' cookbook (€15). <https://store.alzheimer.ie/> Proceeds support dementia services that ASI provides nationwide.

Jack & Jill Children's Foundation has collection of 12 stylish cards features artworks from highly-successful online Incognito art sale (€16 per pack), www.jackandjill.ie, Jack & Jill partner DPD Couriers deliver straight to door.



HOPE Foundation, which helps families in Kolkata, India, has Covid-19 Emergency Response Gifts – food packs for family of five for two weeks (€20), PPE Pack for HOPE Ambulance and Medical Staff (€35) and Sanitation Kit for family (€6). Also gifts from Life Changing (clothe child for one year €50), Rural (pig €60), Education (books & admission fees for one child for a year €115), as well as Healthcare, Livelihood and Training gifts. www.hopefoundation.ie; phone 021 4292990.



Trócaire has added Covid-19 related gifts to this year's range to support those suffering during the pandemic, e.g. Quarantine Care Kit (€150) provides self-isolating families with two full weeks supplies (food, water, phone credit, essential items). Choose from 17 life-changing gifts (€5 to €1,000); gift sourced locally in country where it's needed. www.trocaire.org/gifts; phone 1850 408408; visit Trócaire centre, 9 Cook St, Cork, once retail opens.



Pack of 10 MS Ireland Christmas cards; 10 different cards in each pack; €9 including postage. The charity's the only national service provider for 9,000 people in Ireland living with MS. Email jessica@ms-society.ie.



Donkey Sanctuary encourages people to adopt a donkey (€25) for one year. Buy for that special animal lover in your life – they receive adoption pack with personalised adoption certificate, pencil sketch print, chosen donkey's story (in presentation folder) plus twice-yearly report on donkey's progress. www.adoptadonkey.ie; www.thedonkeysanctuary.ie. The Liscarroll-based sanctuary's temporarily closed to the public – keep up-to-date with news on Facebook and Instagram @TheDonkeySanctuaryIreland

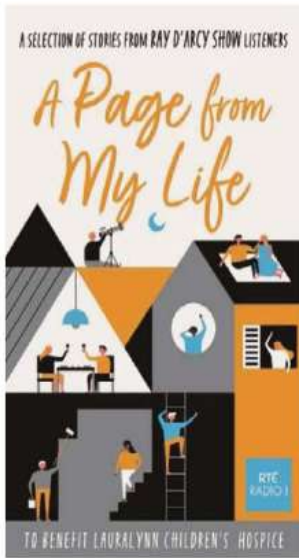


Barnardos has eight gift options (€18 up to €100k). For each 'Gift for Good' you're sent individual card relating to that gift to write your own personal message for loved one. Gifts include Warmth and Well-being (pyjamas, bedsocks, slippers, €18, keeping child toasty at night), Chapter of Opportunity (books, €35, help support language/development through Barnardos early years programmes) and Good Night's Sleep (duvet, pillow, set of covers €50): www.barnardos.ie/giftsforgood; phone 01 453 0355.



Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association Christmas gifts include Irish wooden stars – small token to hang up during festive period in memory of someone special or to hang in support of relative/friend. Or pack of 12 Christmas cards (€10) with six different designs. Choosing these gifts helps IMNDA support over 400 people living with Motor Neurone Disease across Ireland. www.imnda.ie

Chernobyl Children International has multiple Christmas gifts, ranging from Lockdown Love (€50) – provides children locked away in institutions with life-saving medicines, nutritious food, and toys for Christmas – to Homes of Hope (€1,000) – so child can be taken from orphanage and placed in loving foster home. www.chernobyl-international.com/donate/



Irish Cancer Society reusable face masks (pack of two; €10 + €3 P&P) protect members of your community – and support cancer patients/their families across Ireland when they need it most. www.cancer.ie/online-shop



A Page from My Life came out of Ray D'Arcy's invitation to RTE Radio One listeners to send in 500 words on a memorable event or story worth sharing. It got an overwhelming response. Book costs €14.99 with €3 from each sale going to LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice. Also available Christmas Cards (10 cards, five designs, €10) created by children and staff at LauraLynn, and Gifts of Care (€10 to €250). www.lauralynn.ie/shop