

# NOTICE BOARD

Ministers of the Word  
THE NEW rota for Readers is available in the Sacristy.

The Fold  
THE SPECIAL Christmas edition of the Fold will be on sale this Sunday. The crossword will be of particular interest to fans of our Bulletin competitions. Did you know that Fr. Cotter is a member of the Fold editorial committee?

**HELP WANTED**

ST. CATHERINE'S committee for the care of Travellers' children has opened a new unit. Volunteers urgently needed. For information phone Betty Layton. Tel.544046

## RECENT COLLECTIONS

1st November	.....	£922
8th	"	..... £987
15th	"	..... £948
22nd	"	..... £772
29th	"	..... £946
6th December	.....	£983

FR. O'MAHONY, Director of St. Anne's Adoption Society, wrote to thank the parish for their very generous collection of £701 which was a substantial rise on last year.

CANON O'CONNOR has requested that anyone who asked him to say Mass for special intentions in the last few weeks would get in touch with him.

## Avis Executive Secretaries

WOULD YOU like to join this club? Membership is open to all employed as Secretaries or Personal Assistants to Executives. It is also open to women who are now in management positions, as a result of having worked as a Secretary. A new member must be nominated by a member of the Club for consideration by the Committee. New members are very welcome.

For further details please contact Helen Hayes, Tel.841005 - Ext.617/618, 621/622. 8 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Monday to Friday except 12 to 1.15 (lunch)

## Parish News

AN ADVENT Mass was concelebrated for Senior Citizens in the Crypt on Saturday, 5th December. The chief celebrant was Canon O'Connor. During the Mass the large congregation received the Blessing of the Sick. The Choir, who usually sings at the Community School Mass under the leadership of Emer O'Shaughnessy, contributed to the joyfulness of the occasion with their beautiful singing. After the Mass all present enjoyed tea and appletart.



# BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

No.102

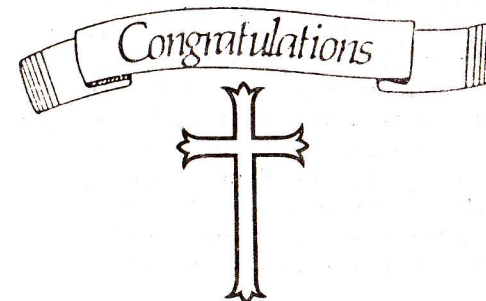
13th December 1987

## MARIAN YEAR CELEBRATIONS



THANKS TO everyone who contributed to the great success of the Triduum, which was part of our Marian Year celebrations. Our Lady must be pleased with the prayer and devotion evident during the three days. There were people praying at all times, in addition to those one hundred and sixty volunteers who led the adoration. Among the highlights were the Holy Hour, the Taize hour on Sunday and the Solemn closing Mass on Tuesday.

The closing Mass concelebrated by Fr. Cotter and Fr. Newman and Canon O'Connor presided. It was sung by the Choir and Fr. Cotter. In his homily Fr. Cotter stressed Our Lady's great ordinariness and great faith. The ceremonies concluded with Benediction.



"I, SISTER Mary Francis, vow to live for the duration of my life in obedience, without property, in chastity, and in the observance of Papal enclosure".

With these words, Mary Walsh, a 27 year old Science graduate from Waterford, gave herself to the Poor Clare Order.

And the Mother Abbess, Mother Marie Celine, received her, saying:-

"If you are faithful to these vows, I promise you, in the name of God, life everlasting".

**Continued on PAGE 2**



The Solemn Profession took place at the Poor Clare Chapel, College Road, on the 8th Dec.

Among those who attended were the new nun's parents, brother and relatives as well as local people and clergy.

The most moving moment came when Sister Mary Francis received her ring from the Abbess. The celebrant reminded her - "You are betrothed to the Eternal King; keep true faith with your spouse, so that that you may come to the wedding feast of eternal joy."

Bishop Buckley brought the lovely ceremonies to a close, paying tribute to the Poor Clare community - "a powerhouse of prayer for this city for over 120 years."

Congratulations from us all to Sister Mary Francis, and greetings to all the community:- let us continue to pray for one another!



CONGRATULATIONS to BRIAN NEVIN "Oakpark", Lima Lawn who was married to Kathryn Hensey on Saturday 5th December at St. Fintan's Church, Sutton, Co. Dublin.

## \*MEDIA COMMENT\*

THERE ARE THOSE in our community who are privileged to benefit from third level education. These fortunate students are in debt to their parents and to the tax-payer for subsidising their education.

But, with privilege, comes responsibility. The mob behaviour of those students who attacked the Minister for Education's car during the week was most certainly not responsible.

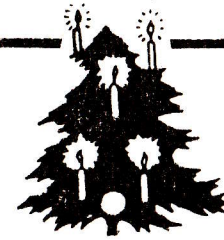
The rather puerile behaviour of the U.C.C. students in such hallowed surroundings would have been more suited to the kindergarten than the campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

IN CONTRAST, we can have nothing but praise for the SHARE boys and their supporters for the heroic work they are continuing for the elderly less-well-off in our city, SHARE chairman, Cian O'Sullivan, painted a rather frightening picture of the plight of our elderly, living in fear of assault from "a small minority in a city that was noted for its level of caring and generosity."

\*\*\*\*\*

WE CANNOT but join with U.S. President Reagan when he said: "We can only hope that this history-making agreement will not be an end in itself, but a beginning". We must hope, too, that when Mikhail Gorbachev said "May God help us" that God was listening.



### Decoration and blessing of the Christmas tree

The Christmas tree is often seen as a merely secular symbol in the home at Christmas. However, it can be a powerful sign of Christ's presence in the home and of the new life God gives us through his Son, Jesus Christ. One way to highlight its spiritual significance is to have a ceremony of blessing the Christmas tree. The blessing could take place when all the family are assembled and could be led by the father or mother. Other members of the family could be actively involved in the ceremony through hymn singing, Scripture readings and prayers of intercession. If desired, an additional ceremony could be added in celebration of lighting the Christmas tree. You might like to use all or some of the following format or, alternatively, to devise your own. A prayer has been included to accompany the lighting of the tree.

Suggested form of blessing:

a) *Opening hymn*

b) *Scripture reading*

(Suggestions: Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:15-20; Luke 2:22-32; John 1:1-5; John 1:9-14.)

c) *Prayer and blessing*

Lord God, you sent your Son into the world  
To free us from sin and bring us into your Kingdom.  
Bless this green tree  
And let it be a sign of the everlasting life that he has won for us.  
Teach us so to live during this Christmas season  
As to prepare for the everlasting life of heaven.  
We make our prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

d) *Prayers of intercession*

(Short prayers of intercession could be composed and said by members of the family.)

e) *Hymn*

(Switch on Christmas lights.)

f) *Prayer*

Lord Jesus, you came into the world as a child on the first Christmas night.  
You came to bring light to a world in darkness.  
Enlighten our minds and hearts this Christmas season  
So that we may know you and your love and mercy. Amen.

*or Closing hymn*