

For Your Diary

● Sunday 20th December:
SUNDAY MASSES AS USUAL for
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
CAROL SERVICE at 5.00 P.M.
Prayers, readings, songs.
Ending with Evening Prayer
for Advent, and Benediction.

● Monday 21st December:
ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
at 7.30 P.M. Fr. Tom Clancy
will lead us through a time
of reflection and prayer.
Visiting priests available
for Confession.
(Instead of Evening Mass)

● Wednesday 23rd December:
CONFESSIONS from 12 to 1,
4 to 5, 7 to 9.

● Thursday 24th December:
CONFESSIONS from 11 to 1,
3 to 5, 7 to 9.

● No 7.30 Vigil Mass

MIDNIGHT MASS at 12.00
Preceded by the singing of
Christmas Carols by KARISMA.
At 12.00 the Crib will be
blessed. Solemn Mass con-
celebrated by the Priests of
the Parish will follow.

● Friday 25th December:
Dawn Mass at 8.00 A.M.
9.00, 10.00, 11.00 & 12.15.



Coming Up!

LOTS OF WORK has already gone in to next Sunday's Bulletin. Just for Christmas, it will be an 8-page edition, with Crosswords for old and young, a 'media-review', and A-Z Bible Quiz (all with special prizes!) and also reminiscences of Ballineaspaig long ago.

All in all, we hope it will be worth keeping. So, be sure to collect YOUR copy on Dec. 27th at your Parish Church!

Advance Notice

ONE OF OUR pastoral priorities here at Dennehy's Cross is to address the whole area of Family Life. We would like to have a profile of the resources available in the area, as well as an idea of the problems which need tackling.

With these ideas in mind, we hope to enclose a Questionnaire with the next Bulletin given to all the homes of the Parish - the one of 17th January.

And when we have a profile of the families of Ballineaspaig, maybe we'll be able, with your help, to improve the quality of family life.

Active Retired...

FR. LIAM O'DRISCOLL needs your help. He's the new Editor of the 'Fold'. And he wants to have a network of lay people in each parish to sell the FOLD. Are you prepared to help? If you are, please get in touch!

Grateful

THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH are delighted with your response to the Christmas Dues. Thanks!

BALLINEASPAIG
PARISH BULLETIN

No. 103

20th December, 1987.

OUR
PASTOR
WRITES.....

MY DEAR PEOPLE OF BALLINEASPAIG!

I am glad to avail of this opportunity to convey my good wishes to you at Christmas time.

I would dearly like to extend these good wishes not only to you at home, but to all who have left home, especially during the past year. Employment opportunities here have been sadly lacking - hopefully they will improve in 1988.

You are always in our thoughts and prayers. If you can return at Christmas I hope it will be a uniquely happy family reunion.

Our three days prayer to honour Our Lord and his Mother for the Marian Year were very well supported. I know that God himself will reward with special blessings all who gave Him of their time and their love.

We, the Priests and Pastoral Sisters, deeply appreciate your support and your acceptance of us into your homes. We join in wishing you every blessing and happiness for Christmas.

Very sincerely,

Denis O'Donnell P.P.

PASTORAL
COUNCIL *News*

"So, what's happening at the Council?"

IT APPEARS this is the question everyone is asking!

At our 5th meeting Fr. John listed in concrete form the services that already exist and also those we feel might find a place in our parish. Where do the greatest needs lie?

The formidable task of discovering how to synchronise needs and resources is only just beginning. Fr. John left us in no doubt that this is our task. The ideal religious system is meant to help people in every aspect of their lives.

Jesus didn't come just to save souls. He was a healer in every sense. He was the great servant of the "Kingdom of God" where justice and peace become a reality. This is our guideline.

The Council was happy to welcome two new members who have been co-opted - Aine O'Brien who represents the under-25s and Clare Bradley who represents the former Pastoral Group.

Rest In Peace



HANNAH JONES, "Derrynane", Cherry Grove, Model Farm Road, died peacefully at her home.

A well-known and well-loved parishioner, she was involved,

with her husband Vincent, in each and every area of parish life. One of the first band of Ministers of the Eucharist, she was always willing to help, right up to the Pastoral Council elections in October.

Cheerful to the end, she never complained or grumbled. Her concern was always for the other person. Her deep faith inspired many. On the morning of the 8th December, she told her family that she was 'going home to Jesus'. We pray, with great confidence, that heaven is her's, this day.

DAN JONES, "Derrynane", Cherry Grove, Model Farm Road, died on Monday last, five days after his nephew Vincent's wife, Hannah. He was nearly 97 years of age.

His Funeral Mass, like Hannah's, was sung by a choir composed of relatives, young and old. And all prayed that he had found eternal peace in God's House.

We extend sincere sympathy to Vincent Jones on his double bereavement, also to his family Liam, Mary, Bernadette and Anne.

SARAH BIRMINGHAM, 44 Wilton Gardens, died at the Regional Hospital after a two-month-long illness.

Her many friends, and especially fans of the Tuesday morning coffee morning, remember her constant cheerfulness.

Her funeral was as she wanted, simple and joyous. We extend sympathy to her daughter Irene (Twomey), and grand-children Mark and Ivor.

JOHN FRANCIS O'SULLIVAN, Sheares Park, died at Marymount last weekend. His was a relatively short life of much misery and pain. We pray that happiness and peace is his now, in plenty.

MAUREEN O'LEARY, "Roycourt", Magazine Road, died peacefully at her residence on Wednesday.

Unwell since September, she suggested to her husband on Tuesday morning that a priest be invited to call to her. And so, she received the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion and of the Sick. It was as if she knew.

Her husband, Jim, will miss her terribly - please pray for them both.

FREDA BOYLAN, "Glenbrook", College Road, died suddenly on Thursday. She had attended 9.00 Mass, as usual, that morning.

A very happy person, she was always a joy to meet. She did great work for many charities and was kind enough to distribute the Bulletin on College Road. We will miss her; may she rest in peace.

Round & About

For Our Special People

CONGRATULATIONS to all the young adults involved in C.A.S.A. - the Caring and Sharing Association. They organised a splendid party for the handicapped of the area, in St. Catherine's Hall. The Christmas celebrations included a special Mass.

This dedicated young group hold a Mass and Social for the Handicapped each month. Those interested should contact Mary Cusack, 8 Kenley Avenue (Phone 341762) Young Adults who would be willing to help out, please contact Mary Cusack.



And Why Not ?

THE OLD Irish custom of placing a lighted candle in the window on Christmas Eve is still practised in many areas. The candle is a sign of welcome to the Saviour of the World.

We suggest that the lighting of this candle would be an excellent time for the whole family together in prayer.

One format would be to sing Christmas carols as a family, and to listen to a reading from Scripture (Eg. Luke 2: 1-14, or one of the other readings given last week for the blessing of the Christmas tree)

Then, to finish, all could say together The Angelus, which is really a profession of faith in Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Why not make an effort to bring prayer into your home, especially for Christmas!

MEDIA COMMENT

THE CHEER OF CHRISTMAS is no more for many of our unemployed, who find their life-styles transformed by the problem.

Can we help ? How can we help ? The media this week puts the Vincent DePaul Society before us - we can certainly help in money terms.

But how about going a step further ? Why not throw aside preconceived ideas and find a Conference that suits our talents and get involved!

WORLD DAY OF PEACE is to be celebrated for the twentieth time on New Year's Day. Pope John Paul has chosen 'religious freedom' as his theme for the day.

He speaks of repression, persecution and discrimination on a world scale. It is natural that we distance ourselves from this kind of religious intolerance.

But are we so tolerant as a nation ? Are we even, perhaps, a little intolerant as individuals ? Do we still believe in the triumphalism of the Catholic Church ? Do we somehow believe that to be Catholic is to be saved, to be otherwise is to be damned ?

Perhaps we might do our own bit for ecumenism and religious tolerance, and leave room on this little island of ours for religious views of all shades.

THE AUTHOR of 'Media Comment' wishes everyone the peace and joy of Christmas!