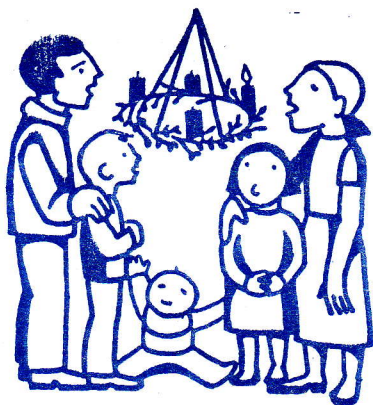


# BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

\* No.142 \*

27th November, 1988

## Advent



*O come, O come Emmanuel*

### BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

On the first day of Advent the wreath may be blest with this prayer:

We praise you for this Advent wreath  
It is the evergreen crown of your  
royal people,  
and it shines with the promise of  
eternal victory.

By the light of this wreath  
we shall wait in patience for your  
Son,

our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who comforts our fears  
and brings hope to the world.

### SUNDAY'S MESSAGE FOR YOU

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

His ways are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep his covenant and will.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;  
to them he reveals his covenant.

### ADVENT FOR FAMILIES

#### Secret Friends

THIS INVOLVES doing an act of kindness for another person, while keeping it secret!

How to play:-

At the beginning of Advent, the names of all family members are put in a bowl, and each one draws out a name, which is kept secret.

Then each makes an extra effort to look after the secret friend right through Advent. On Christmas Day, all is revealed - it can be fun remembering the acts of kindness done by your secret friend during Advent!



### **Bible Study**

THE SEASON of Advent marks the start of a New Year in the Church's liturgical calendar. In the readings of the low Sundays before Christmas, the Old Testament becomes the focus of attention, leading to its fulfilment in the New Testament with the arrival of the Messiah of whom the prophets had spoke. Some of this year's readings are from the Prophet, Jeremiah, who spoke of strife and disaster in his own time because of sin and idolatry. "See the days are coming - it is Yahweh who speaks - when I will make a new Covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah..... Deep within them I will plant my law, writing it on their hearts." (Jer.31 : 31-34)





## L'ARCHE

PEACE, CALM, SENSITIVITY, courteousness, simplicity, these were the things that I noticed on my first visit to the L'ARCHE community at 19 Bishopscourt Drive.

There was an air of quiet industry; Christmas cards were being prepared; wood was being teased out; embroidery was in progress; a loom was working.

\*\*\*\*\*

IN A WAY this typifies the whole concept of L'ARCHE. PEOPLE work together in community, the residents with a mental handicap AND the assistants who share their life. The community extends to committee members, families of the residents, volunteer friends in the local community.

All are bound together in a spirit of prayer and a living out of the Gospel message.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE COMMUNITY have an office cum workshop in Bishopscourt while residing at 'an Croi', Wilton Lawn. There, their spiritual life is deepened with daily prayer in their own oratory. Regular Eucharistic celebrations are held there.

If you would like to experience what L'ARCHE means, you are very welcome to celebrate with the community on the First Friday of each month at 'An Croi' from 8-10 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

BECAUSE the L'ARCHE concept is 'people orientated' volunteers are always welcome. At the moment there is an urgent need for, ideally, a young person with basic accounting skills who is spiritually motivated also.

The time commitment would not be great - but the welcome would!

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## SIGNS OF LIFE

### RECONCILIATION

A SACRAMENT is a sign, a sign of God's love for us. In a very profound way, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of God's love. He loves us so completely, that He is ever ready to forgive us. All is needs on our part is that we stop distancing ourselves from God, ask for forgiveness, take up the challenge of improving our lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

"GOING TO CONFESSION" may in itself be a hindrance to experiencing God's grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What do I mean?

\*\*\*\*\*

THE FOUR essential ingredients of the Sacrament are (1) Contrition, (2) Confession, (3) Satisfaction, (4) Absolution.

For the first six centuries, the Church concentrated on SATISFACTION. Public Penance was emphasised. Those were the sack-cloth and ashes days!! Then, from the early middle ages until recent times, CONFESSION was highlighted. TELLING THE SIN was important; The Sacrament became known as Confession.

\*\*\*\*\*

NOWADAYS WE emphasise No. (4) ABSOLUTION. The priest, himself a penitent sinner, mediates on our behalf. WE repent, GOD reconciles. God AND people together celebrate this experience of God's grace in Reconciliation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pat Lemasney



# LETTERS

Mercy Generalate,  
St. Colomba's Convent,  
Bishopstown Ave. West

To the Editor,

Congratulations on having the courage to bring some 'dangerous talk' to the attention of the public in the Nov. 13th issue of your Parish Newsletter (in Alternative Slants).

Taxation, unjust structures, re-distribution of wealth, social conscience, and such things really need to be addressed today.

No doubt you heard Fr. Sean Healy's comments on the budget submission of the C.M.R.S. to the Dail and Seanad on this week's national news. It is based on solid, up-to-date research and worth thinking about. I enclose a copy.

Perhaps a group in the parish would be willing to discuss it? It's for us to choose whether we should do something about the unjust structures of our society today; but we need to be informed.

It you decide to form a study group, I would be glad to provide more copies of the enclosed.

Yours sincerely,  
Sr. Immaculata Murphy.

EDITOR'S NOTE:- Thanks to the Superior General of the Mercy Order (our parishioner!) for her letter. Any takers on the study group? B.C.

# BAPTISED

We are delighted to welcome two new members into the Church Community:

PETER THOMAS DESMOND, son of Fiona, School Avenue.

DONNA JADE KA MAN NGAI, daughter of Wai and June, Old Market Place.

# Alternative SLANTS

"HALTING SITE for Model Farm Road". An imaginary headline. But, what if? Which would win - tolerance or property values, faith or realism? Which camp would you be in?

\*\*\*\*\*

GREENPEACE GETS up many people's noses. Because giving out about pollution in Cork Harbour might frighten away jobs. Just as protesting about the future fumes of Killeagh might offend our dear multi-national pals!

It seems simple. Jobs -v- pollution. Or more simple still - jobs in the short-term or a future for everyone. How much are jobs worth?

The people of Killeagh and everyone in the harbour area must be asking the same question.

\*\*\*\*\*

I'M STARTING a competition to abolish Christmas. Wouldn't it be lovely and quiet without it.

Money lenders would go bust. People could afford food and coal in January. The vulgar excesses of consumerism in a world of starvation would be avoided.

"But what about the religious dimension" you cry! "What religious dimension?" I counter.

You mean rushing into Confession and making a special effort to go to Mass on Christmas Day? Big deal! Is that all?

No. Do away with it, now. Soon it'll be out of control. The future of Christmas is in your hands!

\*\*\*\*\*

The writer of "Media Comment" is on holidays - taking a well-earned break! "Mark" has kindly agreed to step in:-







## Notice Board

### Workers Ahoy!

WE'RE HAVING a 'meitheal'. Everyone is invited to come together and make our Church sparkle for Advent. The occasion is Monday 5th Dec. at 2.30. Bring hoovers, dusters, etc.etc., and roll up your sleeves!

### Could It Be True ?

THERE'S A rumour going around that the Parish Directory could prove very useful to crossword fans this Christmas. Would the fiendish Editor ever be scouring it for fiendish puzzles for the Christmas crossword ? Never!

Anyway, a last few are on sale at the C.P. Centre this weekend.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society Meeting will be held on Thursday next 1st December in C.P. Centre.

### **BALLINEASPAIG PARISH DIRECTORY 1988-1989**

### Erratum

Please correct Network of Contact People, p.19 of your Parish Directory as follows:

Substitute Vera Morris(544457) of Woodleigh Park in place of Mary Lynch.

## ADVENT READING

'On the Path to Peace' by Joseph Janders. Daily reflections based on the Gospels, Prayers and suggested Actions. Price 50p. (available on Church bookracks)

'Keeping Advent and Christmastime' by Peter Mazar. Morning, evening and night prayers for both seasons. Blessings for Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree. Price £1.19p. (available on Church bookracks)

'Praying in Advent' by Donal Neary and Dermot King. Practical suggestions on prayer for each day of Advent, Recommended. Price £1.95p. (available at C.P. Centre)

### **BALLINEASPAIG PARISH**

→ THINKING OF  
**EMIGRATING?**

*We have information that may be of use to you.  
Call to the C.P. Centre  
any Saturday night after Mass*

CONTACT...  **BR. SEAN MURPHY  
CORK EMIGRATION  
COUNSELLING SERVICE**

ST FRANCIS PRIORY · LIBERTY STREET phone 270402

### EMIGRATION

THANKS TO Pat Casey's articles in the Echo during the week and to the hours of research done by our Cork students, we can no longer say that we do not know the facts.

One in 5 of our young people leave Cork each year and many fathers too, the majority of them going to England.

A reminder of the harsh realities:  
61% last year travelled alone to London.

34% had less than £30 on arrival.

57% had made no definite arrangements for accommodation.

17% spent their first nights sleeping rough - this is a crucial time for many of them.

79% were still unemployed 2 months after their arrival in London.

Diocesan Response - Bishop Murphy has launched an education campaign throughout the Dioceses and has set up Information Centres in the city and West Cork.

Parish Response - We too are concerned. We have set up our own little advice centre in the C.P. Centre. Our message is:- "If you must go, then go prepared". We have information which can help you. Call in to the C.P. Centre any Saturday night after Mass.