

BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

* No. 144 *

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ADULT EDUCATION

FR. CHRISTY O'SHAUGHNESSY gave a stimulating and thought-provoking lecture on a "Christian Christmas". His message was clear. So we are being blinded by tinsel, material extravaganza and consumerism. But from the earliest times Christians have had to face challenges. The solution is within ourselves, in our faith, prayer, the Eucharist. Jesus is the answer. Renewal begins with the heart.

Let us not be too disheartened. Christmas can also be a time of great joy.



Bible Study

"I AM sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem for I have chosen myself a king among his sons". Samuel 16:1. Jesse was the father of David who was anointed by Samuel, the last of the great Judges - outstanding national heroes - of the Jewish people. To be anointed was a ritual sign of kingship. The ancestry of Jesus, the Messiah, is traced back to King David. In medieval pictures the tree of Jesse represented Our Lady, and its shoots, the Infant Jesus.

"The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but, just as branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants".

Isaiah 11 : 1

PFIZER'S RESPONSE TO BULLETIN

Pfizer Chemical Corporation,
Ringaskiddy
Co. Cork

Dear Fr. Cotter,

One of your parishioners drew my attention to your note on Greenpeace etc. in your Parish Bulletin. We at Pfizer have felt that our industry was not getting reasonably balanced reporting from the media. Accordingly, we issued the enclosed statement in an endeavour to bring some degree of clarity into this rather emotive debate.

With best regards,

Yours respectfully,
W.H. O'Connor,
Managing Director

Here are some extracts from the statement issued by the signatory of the letter:-

"I have become seriously concerned at the number of environmental accusations that have been levelled at the industry in general and ourselves in particular over recent months.

I remain completely satisfied that sea disposal is an environmentally attractive mechanism for dealing with our particular type of non-toxic organic waste. The industry here operates to the very highest international standards of manufacturing practice, worker safety and environmental management.

CAN YOU DESIGN OUR CHRISTMAS COVER?
We are looking for a front cover for the Christmas Bulletin. Draw in pencil or pen, black or red. It should not be bigger than 6" x 8½". Entries on or before next Wednesday, 14th December to the C. P. Centre.





SIGNS OF LIFE

RECONCILIATION

THERE ARE many questions which might be asked regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Why go into a Church at all to experience God's forgiveness? Why confess one's sins to a priest?

FIRSTLY, THE Church is where the followers of Christ meet to pray, to worship, to participate in the Sacraments. And the priest is the Church's representative in the Sacrament. He is the one who is trained and ordained to mediate God's reconciling power.

YOU AND I will never meet God face to face in this life. So God, for us, is other people. We will mediate God's grace one to another. The priest does so in a special way.

If he is a good confessor, then he can help us to turn our lives around. He can help us to discern how the dark side of our lives can be overcome, to discover where the Lord is calling us. He can help us to become graced sinners, challenging us too, like Jesus, to "Go! sin no more."

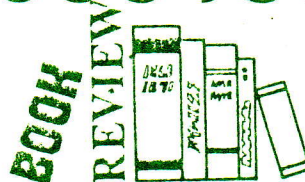
IN A spirit of prayer, the penitent has experienced the healing power of Christ and is graced by the Sacrament to go back into the community mediating God's love and forgiveness.

Pat Lemasney



Rest In Peace

EILEEN CORCORAN died peacefully in her sleep last Sunday in the house in which she lived since 1901, Riverside Farm near Inchigaggin Bridge, the last farmhouse in the Parish. A colourful character, she lived her life and every minute of it to the full. She will be missed by Miss Kathleen Murphy her elder sister, and her family and friends. May she rest in peace.



GOD WITHIN US, by Fr. John Wijngaards (Collins Fount Paperbacks) UK £2.95.

THE author examines all the great religious traditions in developing his view that God is within all of us, that He is closer and deeper in us than our conscious selves.

He considers the great religious classics of all ages to be a spiritual ancestry for humanity.

Historical research shows there are two distinct contrary patterns of religious experience, (a) the prophetic, in which the way to God comes through revelation: God is encountered as a person who speaks and acts; and (b) centring religious experience in which God is discovered in oneself.

In Christianity both patterns have been present at different times.

The author believes that, the inward approach is most helpful and liberating. In the course of the book he makes a wonderful case for this point of view.

God is revealed in nature as the underlying divine presence which gives existence, life and shape to all beings.

We should open our minds to wonder — the complexity of created things and what a marvel every human person is.



The new law for Christians is the Holy Spirit who fills hearts with love and enables them to respond.

The deepest roots of the Spirit in us lie in our created nature — we have a longing for the absolute.

Tom Harris

BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

If you are interested in joining our panel of reviewers, please contact Fr. Cotter.

Parish News

Busy Bees

AN ARMY of parishioners descended on the Church of the Holy Spirit last Monday to put a shine on it. Pounds of sweat were shed, but the end result was worth it all — a gleaming jewel, a lovely place for all the community to gather. And the motivation of all was 'spot on'. As one of the army said — "It's hard work, but it's a privilege to tidy up the Lord's house." It's up to all of us to keep it shining!

Believe It or Not!

NOT EVERY parishioner was familiar with that West Cork phrase, a "Meitheal". One lady told a neighbour we were going to have a brothel in the Church on Monday last. Not quite what we had in mind!

Lighting Update

NEW LIGHTS are definitely on the way — but not before Christmas unfortunately.

Many parishioners expressed opinions on the two options, with a good majority in favour of the amber coloured light. Accordingly we chose that type.

All will be revealed within the next few months (including the cost!)

Alternative SLANTS

Another parishioner has volunteered to write Alternative Slants under the pseudonym "Joseph"

The extradition story continues — On one side we have an ancient mistrust of our neighbours across the sea. The good lady at No. 10 does little to allay our fears, with her outlandish outbursts, put simply — Hostility breeds Hostility.

The persuasive commercialism of Christmas rolls on, placing many people, particularly those unemployed under severe financial pressure. This of course is a contradiction to the real meaning of Christmas and is out of harmony with the simplicities of Bethlehem. The Church wishes us to celebrate and enjoy Christmas — but please be mindful of those whose lives are shredded and torn apart by poverty, hunger and want — They are our brothers and sisters. Perhaps we should "live simply, so that others might simply live".

Gaybo sent his 'observers' to Mass on a recent Sunday. The object — to report on the quality and length of the sermons. Overall, the reports were fairly positive on the homilies but dismay was expressed when one priest spoke for 11 minutes — Strange — we can sit and look at TV for many hours — but when it comes to the 'WORD OF GOD' — the stop watch comes out.

"Joseph"

Joy is the flag you fly
when Christ, the Prince of Peace,
is in residence within your heart.



Notice Board

A Holy Time

YOU ARE invited to Sunday Evening Prayer at 5.00 in the Church - our parish effort for Advent.

For Your Diary

MANY FIND a relevant examination of conscience helpful for confession. That's a key element in a communal Penitential Service. And we have organized one only a few days before Christmas - on Thursday 22nd at 7.30 p.m. Please make a note of that.

Great Night Guaranteed

OUR SENIOR Citizens have their annual Christmas dinner this Sunday at Bishopstown G.A.A. Club. All information from Helen O'Hea 546167.

Your Deadline

IF YOU want a notice included in the Bulletin, you should drop it into the C.P. Centre by Wednesday evening at the latest.

We hope you understand that few notices can practically be called out at Sunday Masses - and Church notices always get priority.

So, to be sure people hear about your event, don't leave it to the last minute. There's really no problem, as long as your notice is in in good time!

Adult Education

DON'T MISS the final night in this series! Flower arranging, Christmas decorations, punch making, etc., music and chat. Bring your friends!

Bishopstown Community Association CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER will be ready for collection by Resident Assoc. Representatives for distribution, on Tuesday next 13th Dec. at 8 pm in Wilton Park House.

SIMON COMMUNITY - Special Christmas Foodrun in Bishopstown/Wilton/Model Farm Rd./Summerstown areas on Sunday next, 11th December. Items of tea and sugar badly needed.

Parish News

A Buzz Going Round

EVERYONE IS talking about the departure of Sister Frances to work with emigrants. Many will miss her personally and more talk of all the good work she accomplished.

Obviously, the relatively new position of 'Parish Sister' is accepted as an important role by many parishioners, and we will have to look around for another to fill that position. But in the meantime, let's just thank the Lord for the standards that Sr. Frances set for future Parish Sisters.

Great Fun

EVEN WITH a small attendance, last week's Table Quiz was great fun. The Bishopstown Ave. people lost their laurels this time round - they came third (team Eamon Young, Paddy Crowley, Sr. Brendan and Fr. Bernard).

First was Laburnum - Eamon and Miriam Cashell and friends. And second was Farranlea - Arthur O'Callaghan, Joe Crean and Paul and Janet Giller.

Well done to those who won, and grateful thanks to Terry Layton and daughter Elizabeth for organising the night.

Ring in the New Year

WE'VE HAD 'bell problems' for a while at the Church, i.e. no bells! When we got a new system on trial recently, we discovered why... Three out of the four speakers in the roof aren't working! These are now to be replaced, so that D.V. church bells will soon ring out once again!

