



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

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Point to Ponder

BISHOP EAMONN CASEY'S words to the People of Galway on Sunday trading, have some relevance to us in Cork, as well:

"THE THIRD commandment obliges us to 'keep holy the Sabbath Day' and the Second Vatican Council called Sunday 'a day of joy and freedom from work'.

The Church expects us to abstain from those labours and business concerns which inhibit

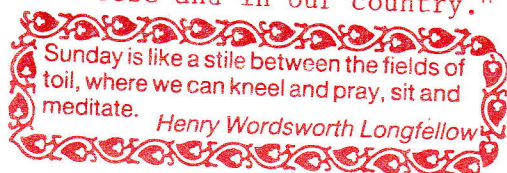
- the worship due to God,
- the joy proper to the Lord's Day
- the proper relaxation of mind and body.

By shopping unnecessarily on a Sunday, you are encouraging a movement that will gradually erode the sacredness of the Sunday.

Think carefully before taking your small children shopping on a Sunday. You are in danger of shifting the focus for them, from God to mammon.

Business people who freely and without pressure open for trading on a Sunday, and who are not giving a service which is essential are not acting in accordance with the 3rd Commandment.

Sunday is the Lord's Day; may it ever remain so in our city, in our diocese and in our country."



This is a must !

NEXT SUNDAY'S BULLETIN will be an 8-page special for Christmas, with plenty reading, and games and quizzes, too.

And Sunday week's, the New Year's Day Bulletin, will be a special souvenir of 1988.

Be sure to pick up both editions at your Parish Church!

PASTORAL COUNCIL *News*

SR. FRANCES has gone from us now. Our Chairperson, Rosarii Murphy, paid tribute to her valuable contribution during her year in the Council. Her going is our loss.

At this week's meeting the question arose again - should there be confessions during Mass on Saturday night? As many people seem to want to go to Confession at this time, no change is being made.

Plans to improve the lighting in the Church are being examined. It was also suggested we should have better tea-making facilities in the Crypt, i.e., a proper sink, higher-level plugs.

The Communication Committee submitted a report on the Directories. Almost all 1,200 of them are sold, leaving a small profit to be used for future projects. A member of this committee put forward the idea that a Chapel of Ease was needed to cater for the Kenley/Leesdale area. Anyone like to comment?

The Council has met with the two Oblate Fathers who will be giving



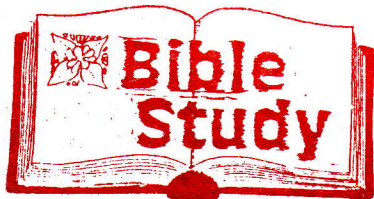
our Lenten Mission. A format is being worked out.

Last but not least, Council members are planning to set aside a day in January to come together for reflection and prayer. No point in a Pastoral Council that is all go..go.. if it loses the spiritual dimension!

Rest In Peace

DAVID O'LEARY, Lima Lawn, died unexpectedly, recently. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Margaret, and their family. David, late of Irish Shell, had only retired recently. His quiet and caring presence will be missed from Lima Lawn.

MICHAEL O'RIORDAN, late of "Aughrim", Laburnum Park, died after a lengthy illness on 7th December. We extend sympathy to his family, both in the parish and elsewhere.



The birth of the Messiah marks a turning point for God's people. From now on, the Bible no longer traces the progress of the Jewish nation, but focuses on its culmination in one person, Jesus Christ. Throughout its history, the people of Israel learn that salvation is achieved only when Yahweh intervenes.

The Hebrew word "Messiah" or the Greek "Christos" is simply translated as "the anointed one" referring to a king or priest; Biblical ideas which include Prophet, Mediator, Servant, Someone who suffers, Saviour, Son of God, Son of Man.

"and this is the name they give Him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

COUNTDOWN T

Day 12: Only 12 days left, that's nine shopping days, they said it on the T.V. THEY keep telling me - must buy those presents.

Day 11: Don't know what anyone wants. Can't remember what I gave them last year. What'll I do? Panic.

Day 10: THEY keep reminding me I must buy something new to wear. Can't arrive out on Christmas Day in last year's dress. Hadn't thought of that. Money running out.

Day 9: Must buy the rest of those presents. Can't help it if they don't NEED these things. Must buy, must buy.

Day 8: Saw one of those 3rd World ads. today, people starving. Wish I didn't have to look at things like that at a time like this. I can't be thinking about that now.

Day 7: Wrap those presents, lots of shiny paper. Order a turkey, a ham, some spiced beef, will that be enough?

Day 6: THEY tell me this is the last day for cards. Forgot the one for U.S. Too late. Will send a New Year Card.

Around the Parish

THE PRIESTS OF THE PARISH thank everyone who gave such a warm welcome during House-to-House Visitation - the people of Wilton Road, Parkway, Wyndwood & Woodford, Far-ranlea, Wilton Gardens, College Rd./Magazine Rd, and Model Farm Rd.

Once Lent begins, the priests look forward to visiting houses in the remainder of the Parish. In the meantime, thanks again.

O CHRISTMAS

Day 5: That ad. about the Third World again. Haven't time now. Haven't the money! Might send something in the New Year...

Day 4: Food. Have I enough? Last year I had more than I knew what to do with. Still can't run the risk of being hungry. Must make a list.

Day 3: Big Supermarket Splurge day. Spent too much. Had to write a cheque. Great embarrassment - everyone behind me impatient, looking tired, rushed, drawn, all being swept along on the same merry-go-round as myself.

Day 2: Never thought to wash the curtains. Panic. They should be all white and fresh for Christmas. Quick. Take them down, get them out on the line blowing in the breeze, fresh, crisp, new "Frosty non-Biological" magic detergent, a must.

Day 1: We're almost there. Keep going, keep spending. A few hours left. Overdraft rising. Must get Mass tonight, won't have time tomorrow.

Day 0: Dear God! Have I forgotten something! Was it SOMEBODY'S birthday?

Thank You

THERE HAS been a very good response to the Christmas Dues collection. Over 80% of the envelopes have now been returned.

The priests of the parish appreciate people's generosity in this regard in these hard times. And they thank especially the Area Collectors for the mighty work they do.

Weddings

DELATED CONGRATULATIONS go to two of our parishioners who were married earlier in the year: MEL LAYTON, Bishopstown Avenue who was married in Easter time, and MICHAEL O'DONOGHUE, Wilton Garden who was married last July.

*MEDIA COMMENT

"SMILE! GOD LOVES US ALL!" So read one segment of the novel Adv Wreath in "Songs of Praise" from BBC 1 on last Sunday night. What a beautiful thought approaching Christmas. We were treated to marvellous liturgy: a pure joy to watch.

"JOSEPH", in Alternative Slants last week, spoke of the commercialism in Christmas. The hype, of course, is building up in the Media all the time. Buy! Buy More! We are all tainted by it.

I was chastened during the week when two different 'smallies' of my acquaintance side-stepped my predictable question: "What is Santa bringing for Christmas?" They were much more interested in telling me what they were giving - milk and biscuits, and beer and biscuits, respectively (discerning children! to Santa - and a carrot for Rudolf! Out of the mouths of babes....!!

ARMENIA, the Patrick Ryan case, the Charing Cross disaster dominated the news all week. But one can find hidden gems too.

Frances Cashman suffers from cerebral palsy which affects body movement and speech. She has had her "labour of love" (picture the hard work) published in time for Christmas. A collection of children's stories, it is called "Tir na nOg" and sells at £2.50.



Notice Board

**BALLINEASPAIG
PARISH BULLETIN**

Thursday 22nd December
PENANCE SERVICE conducted
by Fr. Tom Clancy, well-
known 'Reflection' writer
in the EXAMINER. Visiting
priests for Confessions.
(Service instead of 7.30 Mass)

Friday 23rd December
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
12 - 1, 4 - 5, 7 - 9.

Saturday 24th December
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
11 - 1, 3 - 5, 7 - 9.

No 7.30 Vigil Mass.

MIDNIGHT MASS at 12.00
Preceded by singing of
Christmas Carols from 11.30
by the Senior Choir. Solemn
Mass will follow the bless-
ing of the Crib at 12.00.

Sunday 25th December
DAWN MASS at 8.00 a.m.
9.00, 10.00, 11.00 & 12.15.



Reminder

WITH 65 Ministers of the Eucharist
commissioned at present and over
100 ex-Ministers in the Parish,
there is no reason why any house-
bound person should be without
Holy Communion on Christmas Day.
To arrange, contact any of the
Priests or Parish Sisters.

For your Diary

TO MARK the departure of Sister
Frances, to work with emigrants,
a Farewell Mass is planned.

It will be concelebrated at
the Church of the Holy Spirit at
7.30 P.M. on Monday 9th January.
All are invited to join with our
two Church Choirs in this most
special Mass of Thanksgiving.
Please note the date in your
brand new 1989 Diary!

SIGNS OF LIFE

RECONCILIATION

PRAISE AND thanksgiving are essen-
tial elements in all the Sacraments.
In Reconciliation we give praise
and thanks to God for our repen-
tence and His forgiveness.. We
celebrate the fact in prayer and
ritual.

TO BE honest, it is difficult to
celebrate anything in the cramped
darkened space that is the Con-
fession Box. And, although an
improvement, our Reconciliation
Rooms in general are un-inspiring
and utilitarian. Perhaps there
are new ideas waiting to burst on
the scene to bring the Sacrament
alive?

IT CAN be helpful to "adopt" a
regular confessor who can help us
on our journey. Also, a spiritual
director - a soul companion (a nun
perhaps ?) - can be a sort of
spiritual shepherd along the way.

BY THE grace of God we may all
experience the healing power of
Jesus Christ more and more in the
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

IF YOU would like to deepen your
knowledge of this Sacrament, you
might like to read the following
books -

"To Walk Together Again" by
Richard M. Gula
"Sign of Reconciliation and
Conversion"
by Monika K. Hellwig.

*The 4-week section on Reconciliat-
ion was written by Pat Lemasney.
BEGINNING 8TH JANUARY - The
Sacrament of Marriage.*