



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

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Second Sunday of Advent

Temperance Sunday is again with us. It is interesting that the Second Sunday of Advent is designated as Temperance Sunday and it is most significant that the day is chosen close to the Christmas Season.

Temperance is moderation in everything and is one of the Cardinal Virtues. In the Irish context temperance unfortunately means the non-use of alcohol and this is most misleading. The abuse of alcohol is well known to all. Statistics show that in the period leading up to Christmas and over the Christmas period the abuse of drink is the cause of much suffering and hardship - loss of life, maiming of innocent people and causes the lack of necessary monies in the home to provide even the bare necessities.

As a recognition of the dangers involved in the abuse of drink the Government has seen fit to introduce even stiffer Breathalyser Tests. An appeal to all people during Advent and over the Christmas period is being sent to exercise moderation not alone in the use of alcohol but in other spheres as well. The extra money which families have available over Christmas could go to really worthwhile causes - the poor, the lonely, the widowed, etc. and could be a means of preserving life.

So, take heed! Do everything in moderation and your life and the lives of others may benefit and all will be the richer in spirit.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Christmas is a time for giving - what do YOU think Lord?
It's Your Birthday, after all, you should have the last word.

You gave your life as example of how we should be living
But have we got it right, all this Christmas giving?

We give hours of time and thought selecting from crowded shelves
Not really what our friends might like but what we like ourselves!
To be relegated to the back of a drawer with last year's odds and ends,
Or redistributed other Christmases - hopefully to OTHER friends.

We want to do things your way, Lord, but are we being driven like fools,
By consumerism, media pressure and a set of traditional rules.
To turn your feast of love and good-will into a festival of greed?
Lord, help us to see that we give to You by giving to those in need.



From Death to New Life

ALF KEARY, Highfield Lawn, died after a short illness at the Bon Secours Hospital. He was a man who made many friends through his work as a company rep., and through his golfing interests. Requiem Mass was concelebrated by two brothers of his wife Nora - Mgr. Dan O'Connell P.P. Macroom (Rtd.) and Fr. Michael O'Connell P.P., Doneraile. The sympathy of the community goes to his wife, sons and daughter.



John the Baptist is a prophetic voice for all ages; his message speaks to us today, for conversion is always part of the Christian way of living.

Conversion to each other is called for by St. Paul, so that we can be tolerant of each other, united in mind and heart. That way leads to justice and peace.

BOOK REVIEW

"TENSIONS" by H.A. Williams, published by Fount Paperbacks at stg.£2.50.

SHOULD WE SEE the tensions in our lives as crippling, a form of malaise? No, according to theologian H.A. Williams. In his book "Tensions", subtitled "Necessary Conflicts in Life and Love" he suggests that most tensions are not destructive, but in fact a sign of health and growth! He then sets out to put them in the context of Christian living and belief.

He brings us through a whole range of inner conflicts with which the reader will readily identify - love v hate, creative imagination v critical intellect, the call to goodness v evil inclinations. Above all, he treats in depth the area of faith v doubt. All the human conflicts that we experience reflect the relationship between God and Man. He sees this as inevitable,

"I suspect that to love God with all our heart will sometimes, perhaps, involve us in being atheists.. But the last thing God wants is a yes-man. Loving God can also involve feeling aggressive towards Him."

A chapter on prayer I found both moving and disturbing. Anyone who has struggled with prayer and has known the feeling that God is absent might find encouragement here. Could that devastating experience be the first step to discovering that God is no longer alongside me because He is WITHIN my deepest and truest self?

In the final analysis the author would have us believe that the greatest easer of tensions is a sense of humour - joy, laughter, and the ability to see the fun in life.

Elsie Harris



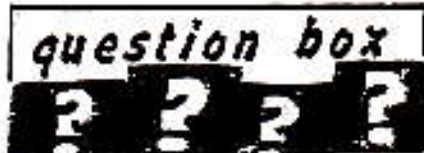
Our monthly 'Youth News' column is up and running! Brian, one of our younger parishioners, writes ...

The recent deliveries of rock music from Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh prove that talent is alive and well among the young people of Bishopstown. On Wednesday, 15th November at 8.00p.m. the 'Battle of the Bands' commenced.

The show was opened by 'Molotov Cocktail' whose music was just as explosive as their name suggests. They were followed by 'Grapefruit Moon' - their music originated from Hendrix and Dylan and were an accomplished act.

Next were drag act 'The Shudders' who, I have been told, have all secured invitations to the forthcoming Grads. Mexican Hats and The Doors seemed to influence 'Crazy Jane and the Bishop' whose vocalist really got the crowd going and whose wide array of songs pleased most sectors of the crowd.

The bravest band of all were classical combo 'EFG'. They were all very talented musicians, yet, I feel, they chose the wrong gig to display their talents.



QUESTION: What is so wrong with Sunday Trading?

ANSWER: The Jews of old kept their Sabbath so strictly that every possible action throughout the day was accounted for.

On the other extreme were 'Dead on Arrival' a young punk band, who were followed by the notorious Gerard Harrington and his friendly monkey, laughing chimneysweep show-band and friends. Their variety of noises were impressive, as was their version of 'Hey, Hey, we're the monkeys'

Next on were 'Nutin Yet' who were a pedigree rock band and they preceded 'Red Army Blues' who were for most the best band. Their mixture of blues and rock was brilliant and for a week old band were quite amazing.

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Last Wednesday was the long-awaited concert by well-known Bishopstown band the 'BFG'. Accompanied by brilliant lighting and sound systems, they proved that they have ability far beyond their tender years.

They performed mostly their own material, showing that their ability extends to song-writing also. They are surely a band for the future. As Lennon was wont to say "A little bit of Uh Huh and a whole lot of Oh Yeah":

Christ was more lenient in his views of Sabbath observance.

Sunday is, or should be, a time set aside for reflection and prayer. The world of the eighties is frenetic. There is a great need, spiritually, physically and emotionally, to slow down. How can we slow down if Sunday trading is no different from Monday trading, Tuesday trading,....?

The Sabbath is the day when we should "be still and know that I am God". Christ saw that worshipping in the Temple could not take place side by side with commercial trading. It is just as difficult to meet and worship God in the avaricious world of Sunday Trading.



Newsnotes

Bulletins to the Homes

NEXT SUNDAY is the third Sunday of December and bulletins will be delivered to the homes. Thank you to all our Distributors.

Christmas Dues

A substantial number of envelopes have been returned (up to 40%). We wish to thank you most sincerely and look forward to receiving the remainder by Christmas.

Mass as gaeilge

BEIDH AN AIFREANN i nGaeilge agus Bearla on Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog.

Pastoral Council Meeting

REMINDER OF MEETING on Monday night (11th) at 8 in the C.P. Centre.

Christmas by Microwave

ONE NIGHT SPECIAL using turkey, ham, etc. Ideas and instructions for Christmas dinner. Highfield R.F.C. is the venue on Monday 11th December at 8.00 p.m. For booking phone Marie at 870229.

Special Christmas Foodrun

SIMON COMMUNITY COLLECTORS will be in the Bishopstown area on Tuesday night next 12th December. Non perishable food items, particularly tea and sugar are requested. As well as food, detergents, disinfectants, etc. would also be of great benefit to them.

A Reminder

SENIOR CITIZENS Christmas Dinner is on Sunday 17th at 6.00 p.m. in the G.A.A. Pavilion. Price £7. Contact 341399 or 546167.

CON LEHANE Chairperson of the Third Age Development Network writes:-

"A meeting for Retired People will be held in the Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place on Friday, 15th December at 2.00p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways and means of improving the quality of life for RETIRED PEOPLE. All retired people are welcome. The meeting will conclude at 4.00p.m.

MONTY HENNESSY OF THE Bishopstown Community Association reports on the recent council meeting:

1. The council fully supports the middle parish stand against the proposed multi-storey car park on Grattan Street.
2. At long last good news seems imminent on the sale of the Orchard site.
3. Those interested in meeting rooms, etc., at Wilton Park House should contact Leonard at 543757 as this house is soon to be upgraded, i.e., new heating, floors, decoration, etc.
4. Bishopstown House, Murphy's Farm could be lost to the community due to underuse, so the B.C.A. appeal to the local people, teams, and groups or person wishing to set up enterprising schemes to contact the B.C.A. for full co-operation.
5. The Meals-on-Wheels were congratulated for their hard work and community spirit in raising £1,300.00 in their recent flag day.