



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

* No. 191 *

14th January, 1990 *

AS 1990 BEGINS ...

We are at the beginning of the long trek of "Ordinary Time" - the thirty-four weeks which extend from now till the end of November and the start of Advent. The Scriptures are calling us to be people of hope, particularly of hope in the next generation. This attitude may seem strange at first. If we are taking our first steps into the new year, it would seem appropriate to concentrate on the work entrusted to us now, rather than to direct attention to the distant future. Nonetheless, the abiding spirit, reaching from beginning to end of the Scriptures, advises us to reach beyond our grasp - to quote an old proverb - and yet never to be discouraged and lose heart if our grasp is beyond our reach!

This realization that another generation will build on our foundation and come closer to the ideal for which we reach out with energy and hope imparts an exhilarating joy. We belong to a family and community, to a project and undertaking, far greater than our individual ability and lifetime. What little we achieve will blossom into a community achievement, bonded with love and trust. This kind of trust in the future requires heroic humility. We let the next generation pick up where we left off and accomplish far more, at times in ways that we never anticipated. Nonetheless, we are not losing anything; the new is bonded to us in love and affection, in faith and tradition.

PRAYER



"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will." This is my delight. At times you may seem to overlook me for those to come afterwards. Yet you manifest the same humble and strong hope, allowing us to continue your work and even to achieve your ideals. Let me always wait upon you.

* * * * *





Rest in Peace

SEAN KEOHANE, 38 Wilron Gardens, died unexpectedly on St. Stephen's morning. His passing came as a surprise as he enjoyed good health.

Sean is remembered as a man who devoted himself to his family. His witty remarks and kindly words for everyone are missed about the Gardens.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife, Dolly and to his family.

DOLLY SIMCOX, Farranlea Park - formerly Rochestown Road - died 5th January, 1990. She was the last of a generation of the well-known Cork family - the O'Sheas. The more mature among us will recall the family bakery on the Grand Parade and indeed the equally well-known name of her husband in the same trade - Simcox's.

She is mourned by her son, Fr James - a Parish Priest in Glasgow and her daughter, Anne Sexton, in Dublin.

Fr James was joined by several priest friends for the Concelebrated Mass, when he thanked all the relatives and friends in Cork, who had been so kind to his mother, when he and his sister were far away.

DERMOT MURPHY, Woodlawn, died 5th January, 1990.

Dermot was well known in the electrical goods trade in this City. He suffered repeated attacks of illness over the past few years, but was always hopeful and cheerful to an exemplary degree.

He will be sadly missed by his dear wife, Jen, and his loving family, Anne, Dermot and Sinead - and, indeed, by hundreds of friends and relatives as shown by the large numbers who came to pray and sympathise with the family at their loss.

NICHOLAS YOUNG, died 31st December, 1989.

Nicky, as he was known even to the children, was a well known and loved figure in the Magazine Rd. district for over half a century, as he went about his business as a milk vendor. He had been in failing health for the past few years and was hospitalised briefly before his death.

The sympathy of the community goes out to his gentle wife, Marie - they were happily married for over fifty five years - his sons, John and Michael and daughters, Martha and Frances.



CHRISTMAS IS FOREVER ...



When the song of the angels
is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes
are home,
When the shepherds are back
with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among
brothers, sisters,
To make music in the heart.

A Reflection

WHAT IS CHARITY?

It is SILENCE - when your words would hurt.
It is PATIENCE - when your neighbour is curt.
It is DEAFNESS - when a scandal flows.
It is THOUGHTFULNESS - for others' woes.
It is PROMPTNESS - when duty calls.
It is COURAGE - when misfortune falls.

MEDIA-COMMENT

"CHRIST", quotes the ON REFLECTION column in one of this week's Cork Examiners, "comes with a January flower", like the first snowdrop of the year, silently, unexpectedly. In the excitement of today's world, we might easily miss Him. What a lost opportunity that would be!

WE MUST, said Fr. Denis in his homily at Mass last weekend, take responsibility for our own lives. We have personal choices to make, moral decisions to arrive at - and the decisions are ours.

The New Year is an opportune time to consider our part in the community. If we are citizens worthy of the name, we have a part to play. If we are Christians in deed as well as in name, we need to be involved.

The Church, the State, will reflect the views of its individual members. Don't let it all to "them". Be involved.

EASTERN EUROPE has taught us all the lesson of the importance of the small man or woman. Mighty rulers have been toppled in weeks by relatively insignificant people.

So, don't allow the media to dictate to you how matters of importance should be dealt with. Don't allow the so-called "liberals" of the country to express your opinions for you. You are free to express your own opinions.

Take responsibility for your life. Be free, be vocal, be alert at the beginning of this last decade of the Twentieth Century.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.



NOTICE BOARD

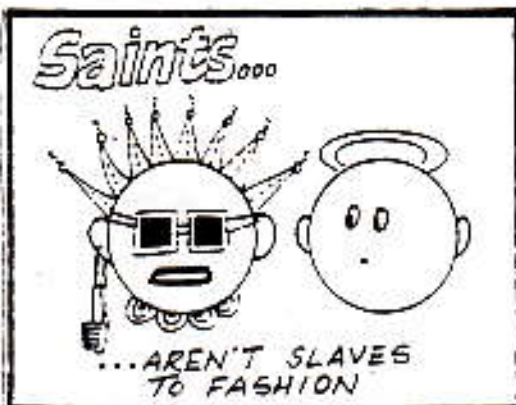
Bulletins to the Homes
THE USUAL monthly delivery of Bulletins to all homes in the Parish will take place next weekend. Many thanks to all who help.

Mass 'As Gaeilge
BEIDH AN AIFREANN i nGaeilge agus Bearle on Domnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog.

Síol Retreat
A NEW SIOL GROUP will meet in St. Catherine's Convent on Tuesday 23rd January at 8 p.m. If you are interested please contact Carmel O'Shea at 545781 or Sr. Margaret at 541376.

Pastoral Council
OUR PASTORAL COUNCIL have their first meeting of 1990 on Monday 15th in the C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

Education Sub-Committee
MEETING OF THE Education Sub-Committee will take place on Tuesday 16th in the C.P. Centre at 9.00 p.m.



Q.A.

QUESTION: How can you call Our Lord a 'mediator' (see recent bulletin) if Jesus is God; how could he possibly mediate between us and God the father?

ANSWER: Yes, Christ, second person of the Blessed Trinity is indeed God. But he is also man, born like us and experiencing all the joys and sorrows of life. This was God's plan.

Often, as a man, He felt the need to pray. He wept at the death of Lazarus. He suffered loneliness and the fear of pain in the Garden at Gethsemane. On the cross, He cried out in mortal anguish to God, His Heavenly Father.

Yes, Jesus Christ is God. But He is man too. As such, He must surely be the mediator par excellence.

QUESTION: How can the Bishops sleep easy in their Palaces when they know so many children are homeless and sleeping rough?

ANSWER: Living in a 'Palace' does not, in itself, indicate an opulent life-style. Nor does your average bishop have any monopoly on selfishness.

Most of us have our own built-in 'I'm alright, Jack' attitudes well in hand!

It is too easy to look for scapegoats, be they bishops or anyone else. We must all put our own houses in order. If we did, then the problem of homelessness would be quickly solved.