



Sunday, December 16, 1990

No. 229

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Third Sunday of Advent.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
DEANEYS CROSS, CO. RM

## Celebration

On Thursday night we will have an important celebration in the parish church. As a community we will celebrate the mercy of our God.

The ceremony, which will last about 40 minutes, will consist of a short service and confession of sin. Each person present can mention the one area in their lives in which they need to be healed.

Key words will be:

Solidarity : Celebration ; Community : Family : Together we will worship our forgiving God. (Those who prefer to go into the Confession box should come along at the times at which 'Confessions' are advertised).



### Scripture Reflection

Will be held on Monday, 17th in the C.P. Centre at 8.00 p.m. The text for this Reflection is from Luke's Gospel, 24, 11-34 - Jesus meets the disciples on the road to Emmaus. This meeting is open to Ministers of the Word and anyone who wishes to reflect and share their insights on Scripture.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

Just a thought for Advent. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son". John 3.16. How real is this? Just another nice thought picked from the Bible? How do we know that anybody loves us? Surely by what they say - and more importantly by how they act towards us - how much they are prepared to put themselves out for us - how much of themselves they are prepared to give.

God left us in no doubt about either. "I have loved you with an everlasting love". "I have carved you on the palm of my hand". Jesus Christ was gentle, understanding and supportive - even towards people who ignored him.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his own Son" - how much more of himself could he give!

"Behold I stand at the door and knock".

God bless you.

*Denis O'Connell P.P.*



## *Rest in Peace*

MAY GLEESON, late of Bishopscourt Lawn, died recently after a long illness. A native of Co. Kerry, she taught for many years in Eglantine N.S. She was well known to the travellers in St. Catherines; she patiently and lovingly worked with them in her retirement. Our sympathy to her nieces, nephews and other relatives. May she receive the reward of her labours.



OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY goes to MARGARET FOLEY, Leedale, on the death of her sister. To DEIRDRE BULLMAN, 80 Leedale, on the death of her mother.

## **Thank You**

Parishioners have, as usual, made a great response to the Christmas Dues, with over 75% of them now in. Your priests thank you warmly.

A very sincere 'thank you' to the people who responded to our appeal for volunteers for one of the local St. Vincent de Paul Conferences. The parties have been put in touch with one another and we hope great good will come out of the experience.



## **Parish NEWS**

### Welcome Donation

The 'People in Need' appeal has benefited our parish. St. Margaret, of the local School for Travelling Children got £13,000 towards the cost of a new minibus.

### Excavations Underway

We expect an influx of students to our parish shortly. Work has already begun on new students' hostels on College Road.

## **SPECIAL CHILDREN'S MASS**

The Communications Sub-Committee are organising a special Mass for Children, including an Advent ceremony, which will be held on Sunday, 23rd, at 10.00 Mass.

A Christmas Tree will be the focal point of ceremony. The children of senior infants, first and second classes of St. Catherine's School have the responsibility of decorating this special tree with messages for baby Jesus. It would be lovely to involve boys within our parish who attend other schools. Cards will be available for boys of First Holy Communion age at the C.P. Centre after 12.15 Mass on Sunday 16th December.

This special Mass will be a very happy preparation for the birth of Christ at which we hope all children of the parish will be present.





## CHURCH BOOKRACKS

Christmas is for everyone, and so are the Bookracks! So why don't you stop, look and have a quiet moment browsing through the Advent and Christmas booklets. There are many others of general and topical interest as well. Looking through them will bring memories, excite curiosity, perhaps give answers, and in the pre-Christmas rush and bustle, you will certainly find the true meaning of this lovely season. So why not buy a Booklet - there is something for everyone - the old, the young, adults, teenagers. Especially interesting and colourful are those for children and one in the Christmas stocking could be a nice surprise!

A Happy and Holy Christmas to all from the Bookrack Team.



*We received the following from a housebound parishioner:*

"Being present at the Mass and Anointing of the Sick was a great privilege for me. My infirmity prevents me from attending daily and Sunday Mass, but thank God for letting me live in a caring parish. My Contact person invited, transported and attended to me for the evening. Fr. Newman's homily gave me a new sense of worth, and acceptance of my illness.

May God bless our priests, and all who work in our parish. Although housebound, I feel very much part of a 'Large Caring Community'."

Grateful Parishioner.

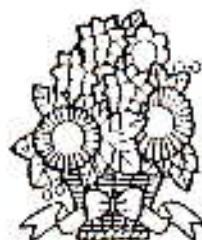
## COMMENT

ALTERNATIVE SLANTS by "THOMAS"

### CHALLENGE TO CHURCH

DURING THE summer 'silly season', when the maestros of Irish morning radio were on holiday, I heard some older nuns being interviewed about the changes since Vatican II. I didn't want the statement of one interviewee to go unrecorded. Her greatest frustration prior to Vatican II was not being able to share the joy of scripture with the laity and her greatest joy now was the enrichment that contact with the lay people was now bringing to her life. I found it a striking statement of the power of the Spirit that exists in the collusion of clergy and laity.


I still find it hard to put to rest the idea that the clergy have a spirituality that lay people do not have. It is a challenge to church today to 'form' the laity in the way clergy have been previously helped. A few lecture programmes each winter is only theory, we need experience as well as education.



#### All Row In

As decided earlier in the year, the Altar Society will have a 'meitheal' next Friday to arrange the Christmas flowers.



**AUDETE**  
Rejoice in  
the LORD  
always!  
again I say  
rejoice!  
Let your  
moderation  
be known  
to all  
The LORD  
is near!

Opportunities for Reconciliation

- \* Wednesday 19th PENANCE SERVICE 7.30 p.m.  
Wilton Church.
- \* Thursday 20th PENANCE SERVICE 7.30 p.m.  
Dennehy's Cross.
- \* Friday 21st CONFESSIONS 7-9 p.m.
- \* Saturday 22nd CONFESSIONS 12-1, 4-5,  
7-9.
- \* Monday 24th CONFESSIONS 11-1, 3-5,  
7-9.

Times of Christmas Services

- \* Sunday 24th Special Children's Mass  
10.00 a.m.  
Carol Service 7.30 p.m.
- \* Monday 24th No evening Mass.  
Midnight Mass at 12.00.
- \* Tuesday 25th Annual Dawn Mass at 8,  
9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15.

Christmas Carol Service

The Senior Choir has organized a Service of Carols and Readings for Christmas in our church on Sunday 23rd from 7.30 to 8.30. Visiting choirs include Cór Baile an Easpaig, Glasslyn Singers from Bandon, and Karisma (depending on availability).

Blood Transfusion Board

A Blood Donor Clinic will be held at the SMA Community Centre on Thursday 20th December from 3 to 5 and from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

Why Not?

There are 75 Ministers of the Eucharist and well over 160 former Ministers. So there is no reason why any housebound parishioner could not receive Communion on Christmas morning. To arrange, contact your local Minister of the Eucharist directly.

Inter-Parish Co-operation

Please note that Penance Services have been arranged for your convenience both in our parish and in Wilton. (Wilton - Wednesday 7.30 p.m., Our Parish - Thursday 7.30 p.m.). Feel free to share in either experience of Reconciliation.

A New Idea

This year, we hope to send Special parish Christmas Cards to our parishioners who are now resident in retirement homes. If you have a family member or neighbour in one of these homes, please drop his/her name in to the C.P. Centre today or tomorrow. Or contact one of the priests.

