



Sunday, December 23, 1990

No. 230

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Fourth Sunday of Advent.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DELMONY CROSS, CO. DK

CHRISTMAS IS almost upon us. The last minute preparations are in full swing. Excitement is mounting, especially in children. The city is chock-a-block with shoppers, the traffic is chaotic and the sound of carols fill the air.

A child, born in a stable almost 2,000 years ago, brought joy to the world and a light shone in the darkness. Something must be born in us too, this Christmas if His birth in Bethlehem is to have meaning in the world in which we live to-day. This means more than Christmas trees, shopping sprees and Christmas parties.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH TEAM**

*Sr. Ursula writes*

In one of our popular ballads we sing "and light a penny candle from a star". You and I may be only penny candles, but my prayer for all of us is that we may be lit from the Star of David this Christmas. The light of many candles could do much to dispel the darkness of our time.

*Ursula O'Malley*



## Congratulations!

FRIDAY, 7th December was a SPECIAL DAY in the life of our parish. On that day, the 25th anniversary of Mount Mercy was marked by a special Mass.

We were honoured both with the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and of Bishop Buckley.

Past and present staff and pupils sang the praise of God, said prayers of thanksgiving, and asked a blessing on the future.

All left the church renewed, invigorated, refreshed, ready for the next 25 years!!



## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

CHALLENGING, reflective, neutral, entertaining, titillating - are these the qualities we expect from the media in general? In the secular press and on T.V. they are certainly what we get.

We sometimes blame the media for not presenting the Christian ethos more positively. So often we get only the contentious and the controversial. For good measure we are served covert (and sometimes overt) church-bashing. This is the way to court readers and viewers, perhaps?

The Religious Press Association represents the Christian Churches in attempting to regulate and improve the various strands of the Christian media. In the Catholic context I'm not sure how successful it is.

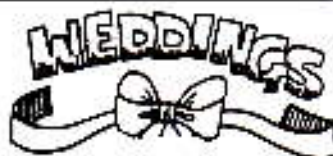
How often do any of us buy or read a Catholic paper or magazine? If we do, are we satisfied with the content or style? If we don't, is it because we're apathetic? Or are we so critical that we don't consider the small investment worthwhile?

I find many of them bland and uninspiring. In fairness, many of the magazines are 'preaching to the converted', acting as a means of keeping a missionary community in touch with one another.

But, as a pilgrim church in a very secular society, we - and I mean ALL of us - are surely not using the media to its fullest extent.

The secular media is not being used sufficiently by the church, except in a defensive way. The religious media is, I believe, totally under-used. It must surely be the way to preach the gospel in the 1990's - and beyond. But it has to be relevant to the times we live in. Times of questioning and doubt where there is no room for the stereotype.

We live in a vibrant age. The religious media should breathe this vibrancy if it is to survive. Will it?



WE CONGRATULATE the following who were married in recent months:  
DUANE SEXTON, 29 Liam Lynch Park who married Monica Jefferies, 10 Hillside Drive, Glasheen.  
COLETTE RIORDAN, 16 Bishops Court Lawn, who married Richard Fennelly, 233 Blarney Road.



We welcome into our Christian Community:  
NIAMH CLARE MULLANE, Rossbrook, daughter of Tony and Pauline.  
LUCY UNA SCALLY, Model Farm Road, daughter of Dominic and Una.  
JOHN WILLIAM CURTIN, Rossbrook, son of Liam and Christine.  
FIONA KATHLEEN CURTIN, Rossbrook, daughter of Liam and Christine.  
CONALL O DEASMHUNAIGH, Rossbrook, son of Michéal and Ide.  
ANDREW JOSEPH FLYNN, Cherry Grove, son of Richard and Carrie.



## Pray For The Dead



GERARD HUGHES, Greenfields, Model Farm Road, died unexpectedly earlier this month. Gerard and his mother moved to Greenfields from Parnell Place in 1982. Gerard was a gentle, quiet man, and well known as a taxi driver in the city. We extend sympathy to his only sister, who resides in England, and his many friends and relatives.

TOM TREACY, Dennehy's Cross, died on 13th December at an advanced age. For years he carried on a victuallers business at the Cross. He lived on there in retirement until about three years ago, when he went to reside in a Convalescent Home, where he died. The sympathy of the community goes to his family in Cork and abroad.

TERESA CUMMINS, Sheares Park, died recently after a period of failing health. She is remembered with affection for her gentle, welcoming and gracious nature. Our sympathy to Marie and Ron, her sister Mrs. Elizabeth O'Donoghue, family and friends.

SHEILA O'SULLIVAN, 'Manaton', Model Farm Road, died suddenly on Sunday night last. She was an extremely well-known and well-loved parishioner, involved in much, interested in everyone. The Tuesday morning coffee morning was cancelled as a mark of respect to her. Our sympathy goes to her family, grandchildren, sister, her relatives and her very many friends.

*From Death  
to New Life*



WE EXTEND sincere sympathy to MRS. PEGGY MOLONEY, Liam Lynch Park, on the death of her mother. To TOM SHEEHAN on the death of his sister-in-law, Nora Sheehan of Doughcloyne.



### Contact People

Following the very successful Mass for the Housebound, a very sincere 'thank-you' to all those who put their cars at the disposal of the housebound, those who baked and made sandwiches and those who very generously helped with serving and wash-up afterwards. The Mass would not have been such a success without your help and co-operation.

We would also like to thank the Girl Guides - Kensa O'Connell, Noelle Kenny, Louise Murphy, Mairead McCarthy, Youth Leader Rosemary O'Driscoll and Ranger Emer O'Driscoll, who helped to make the occasion such a success.



**Advent  
Program**

Mon. 24th CONFESSIONS 11-1,  
3-5 and 7-9

TIMES OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun. 23rd Special Children's  
Mass 10.00 a.m.  
Carol Service 7.30 p.m.

Mon. 24th No evening Mass  
Midnight Mass at 12.00

Tues. 25th Annual Dawn Mass 8 am  
Masses 9, 10, 11 and  
12.15 pm

Special Moment

Like last year, Midnight Mass starts with a special ceremony, involving darkness, light and music - a reflective start to the Christmas season. The Senior Choir will sing at the Mass.

Offertory Procession Rota  
is ready for collection at  
the sanctuary rails this Sunday.

*Congratulations*



Bishop Cathal Daly was installed Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland on Sunday 16th December 1990 in St. Patrick's Cathedral Armagh. The priests and people of Ballineasoig Parish offer our sincerest congratulations on his elevation and wish him a most fruitful primacy.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

AT THE meeting of the Pastoral Council on Monday night the question of Church Gate Collections was again raised. At the recent Catholic Bishops' Conference concern was expressed about collections and the manner in which they were taken up.

Here, in Ballineasoig Parish, if two collections are scheduled for the same Sunday, there is one collection at the doors and the other at the gates. Collectors are notified and urged to abide by this arrangement.

It was decided to inform the Bishop about our system and to ask him to initiate discussions with the local Garda authorities, who have sanctioning powers in regard to public collections. The aim would be to see what measures can be taken to safeguard the rights of worshippers without denying reasonable access to bona fide collectors.

Following the recent discussions on cars blocking the main entrances to the church at the later Masses, it was proposed to have two yellow lines, going from front to back entrance, inside which cars can be parked. This, it was hoped, would remind people that an easy exit must be let free in case of emergency.

Mass at Midnight

We're still clinging to tradition here at Dennehy's Cross. While other churches have 'midnight' Masses at 9, 10 and 11, ours is still at 12 midnight. And there it will stay until people indicate otherwise!

Minister of the Eucharist

New rota for 1991 is now ready for collection at the sanctuary rails.