



13th January, 1991

No. 234



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENBURY, GLOS. GLOS.

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

The Baptism of The Lord

OUR GOD IS FORGIVING AND COMPASSIONATE

I MET a very interesting lady lately. Her name is Peggy Murphy, from Cloduv, and her life has taken her all over the world - to Singapore, Perth and the Philippines.

After spending some years teaching, she decided to make a new start. She trained in counselling and became, in time, an 'Accredited Marriage Guidance Counsellor'.

Her record of service is impressive - 10 years with the Samaritans - 10 years in a counselling centre in Singapore - 6 years in a Church-related centre in Perth. Her clients? People on the verge of divorce, schizophrenics, and a variety of others.

People have asked her how she reconciled her work with her Church's teachings. She is emphatic:

"I don't use religion... I don't judge people. I take people where they're at. I'm not an advice-giver, more a sounding-board, to enable people to make their own decisions."

Her work has often helped people on the verge of separating to 'give it one more try'. But not always - "Sometimes it's better for people to separate than to continue living in hell", she stresses.

She has been saddened by people's image of God: "So many people see God as a punitive figure - out to get



them at every turn. The God I believe in is forgiving and compassionate. I try to help people find him."

In her experience, 90% of marriages break down because people don't communicate:

"It's after the marriage that the hard work really begins. People need to share their feelings, not just talk about the weather." She supplies a very telling phrase:

"Communication is to marriage what air is to breathing - indispensable!".

I forgot to mention - Peggy Murphy is a member of the I.J. (Drishane) Sisters. Her name in religion is Sister Damien, and she now lives in our parish. And she is prepared to make her skills available to anyone who needs to talk. I leave the last word to her:

"The Lord has been very good to me. I have met so many marvellous people in my life. And I really enjoy my work!".

Bernard Cotter, C.C.

Fr. Bernard adds: To contact Sister Damien, ring 542257. She will be delighted to help you. Or get in touch with any of the Parish Team.



Naomh Muire,
Wilton Road

Dear Editor,

The proposal (Bulletin 233) to exclude children from Mass on the grounds that they might be bored or disruptive is not a good or an original idea. I saw it in operation in Surrey, U.K.

It was a sad spectacle to see children separated from their parents and removed from the presence of the Blessed Eucharist the only time in the week they were likely to get close to Jesus Christ. On the contrary the entire congregation was disrupted by the return of the children with their drawings and posters - so it is not less but more disruption. Excluding children from attending at the entire liturgy of the Mass is unlikely to enable them to "keep holy the Lord's day - more than at present."

The suggestion that children denied the experience of attending a full Mass "would actually look forward to going to Mass" flies in the face of experience and right reason.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas J. Waldron

LETTERS

Hillcrest,
Laburnum Park

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest Anne Moloney's letter regarding a 'biblical crèche'. By an extraordinary co-incidence (or was the Spirit involved?) I was reading, last weekend, Cardinal Basil Hume's book 'Towards a Civilisation of Love'. It is sub-titled 'Being Church in Today's World'.

In chapter 8, 'The Church as Educator', he praises the custom of bringing 'even infants' to Sunday Mass with the rest of the family, where they should all be welcome. He goes on, "An increasing number of parishes now provide for the young their own liturgy of the Word so that the reading and reflecting in the scriptures is better suited to their stage of development. Provided this can be done with appropriate skill and children can then return to their families for the rest of the Mass, there is every possibility of their growing in love for the liturgy."

I believe Ann Moloney's idea is well worth developing. The young child, hopefully being already catechised at home and in school, can have the process continued on Sunday. It would seem to me to be an ideal way to prepare for his/her next Sacramental step on the christian journey, that of First Holy Communion.

Sincerely,
Pat Lemasney



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

WHO ARE WE to believe? We learn in the media that the Government claims a consistent fall in unemployment figures over the past four years. Opposition spokespeople refer to the end-of-year results for 1990 as 'an unmitigated disaster', a 'stubborn failure', 'catastrophic'.

Watching returning emigrants from airports in the west spoke louder than words. Unemployment and emigration is a blight on our land. No statistics can brighten the picture.

BISHOP BUCKLEY is quoted as saying that he is concerned with further health cuts and their effect on the poor and the aged. So well he might be. Their plight can

only get worse, it would seem.

"People come first", he claims and, of course, he is right.

"Society", he quotes Pope John Paul II as saying, "is judged by its concern for its weaker citizens."

If by 'society' we mean the many voluntary groups who look after the disadvantaged in our communities, then I believe we can hold our heads high.

If by 'society' we mean the bureaucracy charged with serving these same people, then I am not so sure.

"IT'S A QUESTION of priorities", he claims. He's right again. Government jets and face-lifts for Dublin Castle would seem to come before hard-pressed small farmers and sick people. But small farmers and poor, sick people have neither the purse-strings nor the political clout to make any difference.



Pray For



HANNAH KEOHANE, Farranlea Park, passed away unexpectedly early in the New Year. Her death leaves a gap in the clubs and societies she loved so much. Her vivacious spirit brought life to the groups with which she was involved. Sympathy to her family and friends.

JANE MURRAY, Wilton Gardens died recently at home. She is remembered as a kindly neighbour and a woman of quick wit. Our sincere sympathy to her family.

JOHN O'REGAN, Liam Lynch Park died peacefully in the Cork Regional Hospital after a brief illness. He brought joy to many by his good-natured humour and gentleness. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Mary, and family.

MARY O'KEEFFE, Wilton Gardens died in the Mercy Hospital after struggling with failing health. Her brother, Fr. Donal celebrated the Requiem Mass and spoke of Mary's dedication to teaching all her life. Condolences to Anne and Billy and her family.



BULLETIN

Next week-end Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish, with the help of our kind distributors.

Thank You

The following letter has been received from Edel House:

"Our annual church gate collection in aid of Edel House was very successful and we wish to express our sincere thanks to all who contributed generously to the collection in aid of the shelter for homeless women and children at 14 Dyke Parade."

Aifreann le Gaeilge

Beidh Aifreann dhátheangach á cheiliúradh an Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog. Tagaigí agus bígí páirteach linn.

Catholic Prayer Groups Associatio are holding a Mass for Prayer Groups on Friday, 18th January at 8 p.m. at Sunday's Well Church. The Celebrant will be Fr. Kevin Mulcahy, C.C., Mallow.

"Bring people together in the truth of CHRIST".



Amnesty International

are holding a Interdenominational Service on Friday, 18th January at the Wesley Chapel, Ardfallen Centre, South Douglas Road, at 8 p.m. The Speaker will be Dorothy Archer, Executive Director of Unicef, Ireland. All welcome.



Swimming Lessons for Adults

City of Cork Swimming Club are running a 10 week course starting on Friday 18th January. Enrolment at 7.30 p.m.

Evening Classes

Enrolment at Bishopstown Community School for Evening Classes takes place on Wednesday, 16th January between 7 and 9 p.m. and during office hours on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd.

