



Sunday, December 22, 1991

No. 276

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
BALLINEASPAIG CO. DUBLIN

Fourth Sunday in Advent.



## FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

*Fr. Finbarr writes*

BY NOW most people have received or sent Christmas cards. We have also bought gifts that we want to share with people close to us. These signs of caring and sharing are so much part of Christmas and also a necessary part of it, to heighten our awareness that Christ asked us to care for and share with others.

Christmas is above all a time of goodwill; people make an effort to reach out to others. It is a Christian feast and that means it must also be a spiritual one. We should try to allow Christ have a special place in our own lives and in the lives of our families and community.

During the past year most of us may have had a quarrel with a family member, friend or neighbour. Forgiveness is a powerful statement of Christ's presence in our lives. To make this Christmas a joyful one, full of the spirit of goodwill, lets now, through the presence of Christ in our midst, offer forgiveness to those we have fallen out with.

We can also use the next few days to reconcile ourselves with God. We will be hearing confessions - why now allow the healing power of Christ, who is ever present in our world, be also part of our lives.

*Fr. Finbarr Crowley C.C.*



## CHURCH TIMETABLE

MIDNIGHT MASS at 12.00.

### Wednesday, 25th:

MASS: Annual Dawn Mass at 8 a.m.  
9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15.

### Thursday 26th:

Mass: 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

### Monday 23rd:

MASS: 9.00 and 10.00 a.m.  
CONFESSIONS: 12-1; 4-5.  
PENANCE SERVICE: 7.30 p.m.

### Tuesday 24th:

MASS: 9.00 and 10.00 a.m.  
CONFESSIONS: 11-1; 3-5; 7-9.

  
**A PARISHIONER WRITES...**  


Dear Editor,

Christians everywhere celebrate Christmas. At least we have that much in common with other religious denominations. The sight of the Infant in the Crib cuts through all manmade barriers.

But Jesus Christ didn't just appear on earth. He was born of the Virgin Mary, who was a human being, elevated to becoming Mother of God made Man by the power of the Holy Spirit. Surely then she is part of Christmas also. Try to imagine the plight of a young pregnant lass being carted by an animal over rough terrain at a snail's pace, perhaps for days, with faithful Joseph leading the way. Then, at the end of a painful journey and with all doors closed to them, lonely and frightened, miles from home, family and friends, in despair and desperation, finally having to crawl into a cave and nestle among animals, to give birth to her Son. The anguish she felt then can only have been surpassed by her ordeal years later when she followed that Son as he carried a cross to Calvary - then stood at the foot of that cross watching him being crucified for the salvation of mankind.

How could any man call himself truly Christian who does not find some place in his heart for the Mother of Jesus Christ?

God knows we owe her that much.

Sincerely,

name and address with  
Editor.

## THANK GOD YOU CAN SEE

Anyone who has ever watched a blind person negotiate our footpaths and roads with their trusted dog will be full of admiration for their skill and determination.

But have you ever seen the confusion caused by that car or van or lorry parked, or half-parked, on the footpath? Close your eyes and try to visualise it! Got the picture? So let's all be more considerate towards the unsighted and 'Park Prettily' - on the road!! Did you know that it's the only LEGAL way to park?

You might work off some of the turkey, too, by cutting back those over-hanging branches. It's no fun to be poked in the face by one of them on a dark night. But if you live in permanent darkness... you will cut them back, won't you?

Thanks.

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## BAPTISM

We welcome into our Christian community:

SEAN MICHAEL O'DONOVAN, baptised on the 9th November.

KELCI MEGAN DE CAIRE and JESSICA LEE DE CAIRE, baptised on 22nd November.

COLM RICHARD CARROLL, baptised on 30th November.

DARREN PATRICK WALSH, baptised on 30th November.

KEITH DAVID DANIEL O'DONOVAN, baptised on 13th December.

AOIFE MARIA BUTTIMER, baptised on 14th December.



## EAT "HUMBLE PIE" FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER...

Christmas is a time for living, for giving, for caring, for sharing, for loving, and for being loved. It can be a time of great joy, of family reunion, of visiting friends.

Christmas for children is Santa Claus, the crib, presents, putting up the tree, decorations, getting up in the early hours of Christmas morning - one could go on forever.

Unfortunately, there is another side to this coin. For some it is a time of unbearable loneliness and sadness. Reminiscences are not tinged with happiness and joy, but with bitterness and sadness.

It is also unfortunate that this season of giving, caring, loving and joy will also be a season of killing on the roads, of fires and domestic tragedies, of sad and heart-rending and sometimes violent family rows.

It is a fact that there is an upsurge in all of these problems at this time of the year. In quite a lot of cases, excessive drinking of alcohol is associated with the problem.

If you are drinking, do so in moderation. If you are the host don't force people to drink if they don't really want to. If you are driving, don't drink. If you are drinking, don't drive. Don't let drink mess up your Christmas, your family's Christ-

mas, your friends' Christmas.

Don't start or get involved in arguments or rows at home or elsewhere - again drink is often involved. Eat "Humble Pie" for your Christmas dinner in preference to a row.

On the roads be careful and considerate, let someone else take that space in front of you. If they make a mistake - so what? Give them a break. We all make mistakes sometimes. We are all glad of being shown a little tolerance. Don't speed.

If you have fallen out with someone - family or friend or enemy - this is the time to extend the hand of friendship - don't wait.

If you know someone who is sad, lonely, sick, elderly or alone this Christmas - can YOU do something to make their Christmas a little happier, a little brighter, a little more meaningful?

Two useful suggestions as Christmas presents - A CYCLING HELMET or A SMOKE ALARM.

Finally, be careful with the drink, be careful with the fire, be careful on the roads, don't fight with anyone, but most of all ENJOY yourself in the true spirit of Christmas.

Happy Christmas.

Carda Michael Haydon  
Community Police Officer



We extend sincere sympathy to MRS. KITTY COUGHLAN, Magazine Road, on the death of her mother.

*What soever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.*





### Christmas for Everyone

A Cassette recalling the Story of Christmas with biblical readings, poetry, prose and music with a special children's choice arranged and presented by Claire O'Halloran with Mairin Prendergast, Sinead O'Shea, Michael Murphy, Colm O'Halloran and children Neasa Kelly, Stephen Kelly and Evelyn Grant - Flute. Price £5. Further information at C.P. Centre.

### Midnight Mass

Prior to Mass, Karisma will sing a selection of Christmas carols.

### Mass for the Sick

Following the very successful Mass, 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 helped with serving and wash-up afterwards.

We would also like to thank Dearbhla O'Kelly, Elizabeth Holland, Anne-Marie Kelly, Marguerite White, Claire Rooney, Aoife Floyd, Siobhan Moriarty and Cathy Murray - they all helped to prepare the Crypt and to make the occasion such a success.

### Ministers of the Eucharist

The rota for 1992 is now ready for collection on the sanctuary rails.

### Bishopstown Scouts (S.A.I.)

Youth Leaders needed. Are you interested in working with young lads? We need you. Experience a help but not essential. Please phone 344231.

### Lost

Gold chain bracelet on 16th November in Wilton Gardens. Contact 541970. REWARD.

### Diocesan Directory

There's no FOLD in January, but the Diocesan Directory will be out on the 4th/5th January. Great value at £1, it includes information on every parish.

- Confirmation dates
- Comprehensive phone number list
- Guide to social and caring services
- 1992 calendar, detailing all the Sundays of the year (handy for readers, etc.)
- May of the dioceses
- Colour-coding and indexes, to make it easy to find what you need.

### Reminder

Don't forget the Carol Service at 7.30 p.m. on this Sunday night. An occasion not to be missed. PLEASE COME.

