



3rd Sunday in Advent

No. 318

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Sunday, Dec. 13th, 1992



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENHAYS CROSS, DUBLIN



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
The Dean writes

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, there is a sense of joy and excitement in the Mass - the Lord is very near.

May I share with you a Christmas Story.

Some years ago Fr. Robert, O.F.M. was invited to preach a Christmas Novena in Sao Paulo, South America. In every sermon he promised they would have a "Living Crib" for Christmas. People were impatient to see it. Christmas Day was fast approaching, but no sign of the promised "Living Crib" - so the usual crib was prepared in the usual way, in the usual place, by the usual people.

Two days before the Feast, Fr. Robert called three students and sent them out to find the poorest families in the poorest district in town. They brought back a hundred addresses. These the priest wrote on separate pieces of paper, folded them and placed them on a tray near the altar.

Just before Midnight Mass, Fr. Robert came out with two posters which read "Dead Crib" and "Living Crib". The "Dead Crib" he left beside the usual Crib -

the "Living Crib" he laid on the tray. There was silence. Everyone was waiting for some word of explanation. Fr. Robert spoke briefly. "Social injustice, unemployment, lack of love and concern have forced Jesus to change his address. On this Christmas Day He is awaiting your visit at His new address, which you will find on any of the folded papers on this tray."

After Mass the Church was empty - so was the tray. Shops were sold out - clothes, exercise books, pens, toys - all found new owners. The joy and excitement of Christmas was shared and spread.

Something in it!

Lewis O'Connor P.P.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Musical Treat

A reminder - Sunday, 20th at 8 p.m. A celebration of the birth of Christ in music and song with choirs and orchestra, under the baton of our church organist, Patrick Killeen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Here's **NEWS**

BRAIN GAME

JOE HASLAM, Rosshbrook, Commerce Student, will be one of five U.C.C. students to represent Ireland in the futuristic 'Brain Game' in Strasbourg. The team will compete in the Third Millenium Games - an intellectual Olympics played out on computer. The mind boggles!

These five students came first in the Irish finals held in Trinity College. They will now join other winners from all parts of the E.C. community in Cannes on December 14 for the next stage.

Candidates will have to solve problems facing the Community, e.g. language and cultural barriers, in the presence of top European scientists, politicians and economists. They will grapple with questions on four categories - culture, politics, economics and science.

First prize is a meeting with all 12 Heads of State and runner-up bonuses include work experience in top European Firms and free weekends around Europe.

We congratulate them on having got so far and we certainly do wish them luck!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **ANTHONY BUCKLEY**, Wilton Road, who made his debut with Cork City F.C. last Sunday against Waterford United. Anthony set up the only goal of the game.

Rest In Peace

We pray for the late CORNELIUS PRIOR, formerly of Fernhurst Terrace, who died in England. We offer our sympathy to his brother and sister.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to PATRICK O'LEARY, Farranlea Park, on the tragic death of his sister.



QUESTION: We hear very little about 'moving statues' these days. Does this mean that they have stopped moving? Or was the whole thing a hoax in the first place? Or was it the fruit of fertile imaginations?

ANSWER: The Church is always ready to believe in Divine intervention. But when anything claiming to be 'supernatural' comes along, the Church, in its wisdom, waits.

Unless God is really intervening, the phenomenon slowly passes into oblivion.

The Church has waited in the case of the moving statues... and the memory is fading.

Good to forget - best to forgive!

Robert Browning



IRISH COMMISSION FOR THE LAITY

REPORT

DURING a very full day on Saturday December 5 in Dublin, we covered issues ranging from the Green Paper on Education to the White Paper on Marital Break-down and Catechesis in the Parish.

One member, representing the St. Vincent de Paul Society, spoke of the changing emphasis in their work; the 'new poor' brought about by the down-turn in the economy; the problems created by marital break-down; the drug problem.

Another member, a catechist, spoke about Parish Catechesis. He outlined the change in attitudes from teaching with the Penny Catechism and Apologetics to the vacuum created by Vatican II.

He referred to the apathy in the classroom, the suspicion towards the lay catechist, the

lack in skill in both priest and lay catechist.

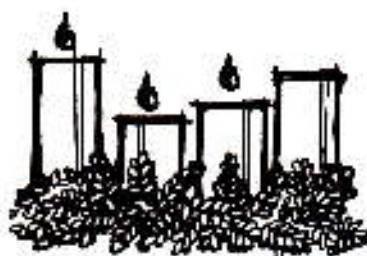
In the discussion that followed, the need for affirmation was emphasised: affirmation of the priest who felt threatened and of the lay catechist who simply tried working out some form of catechesis in the Parish or the school.

It was felt that catechesis is already going on and that has to be acknowledged. We were encouraged to be aware of the opportunities for catechesis as they occur. Under the leadership of the pastor, the gifts of the laity should then be affirmed and utilised.

We ended our day with a simple Christmas Liturgy.

Pat Lemasney

ADVENT PRAYER



How can I dance for joy with hunger pains,
and rejoice when I've due cause to weep?
Yet, that's what you say, Lord.

It all seems very strange;
you've had to rearrange
all our order and our plans.

Perhaps you know that life is fragile,
and everyone will weep and yearn,
and pain is only pain when untransformed.

Show me how to change our world,
teach me how to dance for joy.

**Bulletins to the Homes**

Next weekend Bulletins will be delivered to every home in the parish.

Aifreann le Gaeilge

Beidh Aifreann dhatheangach a cheiliuradh an Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog. Mar chabhair daoibh beidh bileog an Aifreain ar fail an mhaidin sin.

**Greenery and Holly Needed!**

For our Church Crib. If you can help, please contact the Sacristan during the week.

Why Note?

There are many Ministers of the Eucharist in our parish. So there is no reason why any housebound parishioner could not receive Holy Communion on Christmas morning. To arrange, contact your local Minister of the Eucharist, or phone the parish office at 344452 between 10.00 and 12.00 Monday to Friday.

Pastoral Council

Meeting on Monday, 14th, at 8.10 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Young Ireland

Mount Mercy "Young Ireland" reminds you to buy Irish this Christmas to help create more jobs.

December 'FOLD'

on sale this weekend - 50p.

•"Still No Room at the Inn" -

The Shocking way Ireland treats refugees•

•Decision Time for our Diocesan Mission•

Senator Brendan Ryan on Faith

•Parish News•And much more....

**Music****Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle**

Our December Recital will take place on Wednesday next, 16th, at 3 p.m. sharp in the Crypt of the Church. Joe Crean will present the Recital and everyone is welcome.

May we wish all our supporters a very holy, happy and peaceful Christmas.

**Carol Service**

A Carol Service will be held in the S.M.A. Wilton, on Friday, 18th December at 7.30 p.m. Many choirs and soloists. All welcome.

Handel's Messiah

A special 250th anniversary performance will be given on Sunday December 13th in the City Hall in aid of Concern Somalia. Cantairi Mhuscraí from Ballincollig will be conducted by John O'Connor with soloists Fiona O'Reilly, Sheila McCarthy, Ciaran Brady and David Gwesyn Smith. Those who missed the Messiah at the Point will enjoy this gala performance. Tickets available from Pro Musica, Oliver Plunkett Street, or from any choir member.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 274888**