



Second Sunday after Christmas

No. 321

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Sunday, Jan. 3rd, 1993



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
BALLINEASPAIG, CO. DUBLIN

## EPIPHANY

(6th January)



he began to manifest himself to the Gentiles. On that day the Jewish shepherds saw him when he was born; on this day the magi coming from the east adored him. Now, he had been born as the cornerstone, the peace of the two walls coming from very different directions, from circumcision and uncircumcision. Thus the Jews and the Gentiles could be united in him "who had made both one." This was prefigured in the Jewish shepherds and the Gentile magi. From this began what was to grow and to bear fruit throughout the world. Let us, therefore, with joy of the spirit hold dear these two days, the Nativity and the Manifestation of our Lord. The Jewish shepherds were led by an angel bringing the news; the Gentile magi by a star showing the way.

Augustine

There are people who have a very clear goal in life and all their energies are directed towards it. It may be money, friendship with God, political power, family happiness, prestige, success in sport or a top job. Whatever it is, it is like a single star that beckons them onwards relentlessly and strengthens them to endure every inconvenience and sacrifice that is needed to attain it.

In today's gospel, we read of

### THREE REFLECTIONS ON THE EPIPHANY

Only a few days ago we celebrated the Lord's birthday. Today we are celebrating with equal solemnity his Epiphany, in which

the wise men from the east who followed their single star and it led them to Jesus. They could have stayed where they were but instead they paid the price of long journeying and of risking their lives by approaching Herod. Their reward was the opportunity to meet Jesus and to worship him as their God.

Unlike those famous travellers, most of us are less definite about what we want out of life. We follow many little stars, a bit of comfort and security as well as small selfishnesses here and there. We can be like Herod and expect somebody else to find Jesus for us. It cannot be done. We must be prepared to pay the price of time and service to meet him. The world today offers as many beckoning stars as the myriad of stars in the Milky Way. Each person must choose one rather than the rest.

Which star are you following this year?



Fr. Tom Clancy

**G**od has called you out of darkness,  
into his wonderful light.  
May you experience his kindness and blessings,  
and be strong in faith, in hope, and in love.

Because you are followers of Christ,  
who appeared on this day as a light shining in darkness,  
may he make you a light to all your sisters and brothers.

The wise men followed the star,  
and found Christ who is light from light.  
May you too find the Lord  
when your pilgrimage is ended.

Solemn blessing  
Roman rite



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

I WAS watching the teenage schoolboys milling around the door of the bus. Each man had his hurley and bag. They were rather subdued for such a gathering. They had lost the final of the cup. The same class had lost last year, and the year before.

Just as the bus moved off one bright lad stood up and shouted, "Are we downhearted?" "NO!" came the reply in chorus. Forthwith they joined a budding Pavarotti, "For we don't care whether we win, or lose, or draw etc., etc., Ole, Ole, Ole."

I thought of the schoolboys this morning as I listened to the early morning news. The gentleman summing up the news from the day's papers said a survey showed only 3% keep New Year resolutions. This was followed by a comment from the newsreader, "Not much point in making New Year resolutions - or indeed any other kind."

I prefer the philosophy of the schoolboys. Incidentally, they won the Harty Cup the following year.

A happy New Year to you all - with every blessing from the Infant of the Crib. Perhaps we will take a small step forward in 1993.

*Denis O'Connor P.P.*



## Baptisms

We welcome into our community the following babies who were baptised recently:

KATE PATRICIA O'SULLIVAN  
SHANE ANTHONY KILCOYNE  
JAMES FRANCIS WHELTON  
TARA PATRICIA MURPHY  
CONOR MICHAEL O'DONOVAN



## Rest in Peace

FRANK CORRIGAN, Sheares Park, died unexpectedly just before Christmas. A friend to anyone in need and a man who had a kind word for people, Frank's happy presence will be sadly missed by family and neighbours. Our sincere sympathy to his wife Eileen, twelve children and extended family.

We pray for the late PADDY TWOMEY, St. Clare's Avenue, who died last week after a brief illness. Paddy was well known to many in the northside as he was the proprietor of a Butcher's shop in Shandon Street. He will be missed by all in the St. Clare's Avenue area for his kindness and neighbourliness. We offer our sympathy to his wife and family.

# COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY 2 - 6 p.m.

IT IS NOT inconceivable that soon we will see the shops open on Christmas Day. In recent years the media are full of advertisements for Sunday Shopping. This year the media informed us that the shops were re-opening on St. Stephen's Day. So why not Christmas Day? Does it make any difference?

Why Sunday Shopping at all? Are there not enough days in the week already to spend, spend, spend? The media tell us that it gives families an opportunity to browse and shop together. What about Saturday? What about late-night opening?

Why Sunday Shopping? In a word, greed. The age-old battle between God and mammon (the god of riches and greed) is once again being played out. Every excuse will be introduced to justify it. Over-worked staff will not be consulted. Morality is not a word to be mentioned.

Centuries of respect for the Sabbath are thrown in sacrifice to this god of greed. We abandon a sacred heritage in the name of convenience - without a thought.

The sad thing is - and we witnessed it in the run-up to Christmas - that it is we, the Christian community, who support in our thousands this most unChristian practice. And we do not seem to care.



## NOTICE BOARD

The Epiphany of our Lord  
Next Wednesday, 6th January, is a Holyday of Obligation. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday night at 7.30 and Masses on Wednesday will be at 9, 10, 11, 12.15 and 7.30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Soc.  
Monthly meeting next Thursday, 7th, in the C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

Pastoral Council  
Minutes of last meeting available at the C.P. Centre. Next meeting takes place on Monday 11 January at 8.10 p.m.

### CORK AND ROSS DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

- Your invaluable reference book for 1993•
- On sale this weekend•
- Price £1
- DONT MISS IT!**



CONGRATULATIONS and a warm thank you to our church choir and organist for organising the beautiful Carol Concert held in the church on the Sunday before Christmas. We were treated to a great night of music and singing with choirs, soloist, orchestra and concert band. Those were were unable to attend certainly missed a treat.

Midnight Mass was also enhanced by the singing of our choir.



We congratulate the following parishioners who were married recently:

URSULA DESMOND, 40 Liam Lynch Park, who married Alan Joseph Sievewright, Browningstown Park.  
JOHN COSGRAVE, St. Clare's Avenue, who married Suzanne Allahwerdi, Finland.  
FINOLA DOYLE, Wilton Road, who married Peter O'Neill, Ballintemple.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY  
NUMBER: 274888**