



Sunday, December 19th, 1993

No. 362

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

4th Sunday in Advent



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Sr. Ursula writes

In 1951 I spent Christmas in Guernsey - millionaires Island! It has a population of about 60,000 and 95% of those living there are wealthy, and I mean wealthy. The one and only time I was ever in a Rolls was in Guernsey. Families had several cars, a yacht or large boat and one or two even had a private phone. Get the picture? They were not your average Corkonian to say the least! I enjoyed the years I spent on the Island but I certainly did not enjoy that Christmas. I know that I was lonely and that I missed family, friends and Cork, but that wasn't all. I will never forget Christmas Eve.

I walked to town in the afternoon to do a bit of last minute shopping and to get the atmosphere. I got it alright! Everyone I met appeared to be angry, bad tempered and in a hurry. Shop assistants were tired and shoppers weary and dispirited. I can honestly say that I didn't hear even one person wish another a happy Christmas. I ran out of it back to the peace, calm and joy of the little community of Sisters of Mercy with whom I was living. Reflecting on it later

I realised that there were very few children in town that Christmas Eve and in proportion to the total population very few on the Island as a whole.

I couldn't help but contrast this memory with the children's Christmas Mass which we had in our parish last Sunday. Dennehy's Cross is a big church, but it was filled to capacity with children, teenagers and parents. It was a joyful and inspiring celebration, as young children and toddlers, often accompanied by parents brought gifts to the altar. The scouts and guides who stewarded the long Offertory Procession added to the colour as well as to the orderliness of the occasion.

The children's choir and orchestra were a credit to those who prepared them. They obviously enjoyed themselves and created a truly prayerful atmosphere. When some of the simple messages of love and gratitude written by the children to the Christ Child were read aloud every heart was touched.

Our children are our greatest wealth. They are our joy and our hope for the future. Nothing gives us joy as much as the birth of a child, nothing cuts through our selfishness as much as the vulnerability and need of a child and nothing inspires our love as much as the love of a child. Wasn't the great God of Heaven and Earth very wise to come among

us as a little infant? "The child shall lead them." Is.11:6.

I think that I can say, without fear of contradiction, that we cannot express enough gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Communications Group who organised this really wonderful celebration. It took a lot of hard work, tenacity and commitment. We are truly fortunate to have people of such calibre, initiative and creativity in our parish. Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo aris.

Maith O'Shallaghan R.B.17.

Meditation

Christian Meditation

Interested in quiet prayer? An introductory talk on Christian meditation (based on the method of Dom John Main) will be held in C.P. Centre on Tuesday 21st December at 8 p.m. Come along with no obligation to continue, or further information from Lillian at 544873.



We offer our sincere sympathy to MRS. MARION KENNY, St. Clares Avenue, on the death of her sister.

NOTE OF Thanks...

Children's Christmas Mass

The Communications Committee says a very sincere thanks to all who helped with the Mass - teachers, parents, parish team, readers, offertory procession, basket holders, Leesdale children's choir with Lawrence Rowe and Ciaran Kelly, and orchestra with Trudy Byron. We would like to congratulate all the children on their cards and gifts. We are sure that Christ himself smiled with joy and appreciation.

The St. Vincent de Paul also wish to thank sincerely all the children who contributed so handsomely to our appeal for presents for our needy. A special word of thanks to the organisers and both Guides and Scouts. Well done all, and many thanks.

Thank You

St. Anne's Adoption Society acknowledge with thanks £689 collection recently at the church.

Thank You

The organisers of the Mass for the sick and elderly wish to thank the Bishopstown Irish Girl Guides who were so helpful. They were - Anne-Marie Kelly, Helen O'Connor, Denise O'Mahony, Cliona Cahill, Aoife Cahill, Aoife O'Keefe, Caroline Murphy, Joanne Murphy, Elaine Fitzgerald, Mairead McCarthy, Lucy Healy-Kelly and Aideen Mawe. Their cheerful, smiling faces gave everyone a lift.



Church Collections

The new system will begin on the first Sunday in January. Envelopes are currently being delivered to the homes. We thank you for your co-operation and generosity.

Visitation

Fr. John is on pastoral visitation in Farranlea Road and Grove this week.

Fr. Finbarr will visit Magazine/College Roads in the New Year.

Ministers of the Word

New rota now ready for collection at the Sanctuary Rails.

Traffic Congestion

Would those attending the 6.15 Vigil Mass on Saturday nights please be sensitive to the needs of other traffic on Model Farm Road, and also be more careful when parking within the church grounds.



Can You Help?

Lady's valuable watch was lost in the church or surrounds last Sunday week 5th December. It is of great sentimental value and a reward is offered. If you can help, please contact the Sacristan or C.P. Centre (344452).

THE INN KEEPER

I cannot take those poor, they do not pay.
I had to send that pair away;
For trade is trade and money too, I say.
And yet that girl was strangely fair.
She shivered in the doorway there,
And once she raised her eyes to mine
And smiled. I would have knelt, I swear;
But some lout made a call for wine
And broke the spell.
I turned them from my door;
And I did well.
Two merchants took the great room overhead.
That is my policy; I buy and sell
And keep my pity for the dead.
And yet that girl! that girl!
I turned her from my door,
And she looked back with kindly eyes
And fairer than before
And went away,
As if she walked with emporors
And was a queen and all the world was hers.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

MASSES

Monday 20th:
9.00 and 10.00 a.m.
No 7.30 p.m. Mass

Tuesday 21st:
9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd:
9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 23rd:
9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Friday 24th:
9.00 and 10.00 a.m.
Midnight Mass at 12.00

Christmas Day:
8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.15.
No Vigil Mass.

St. Stephen's Day (Sunday):
9, 10, 11 and 12.15.

CONFESSIONS

Monday 20th:
Penitential Service 7.30 p.m.
Visiting Priests.

Wednesday 22nd:
After 7.30 p.m. Mass.

Thursday 23rd:
12 - 1; 4 - 5; before and
after 7.30 p.m. Mass.

Friday 24th:
11 - 1; 3 - 5; 7 - 9.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 271551**

POOR CLARES

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve:
No Benediction.
Mass at Midnight.

Christmas Day:
Masses at 8 and 10 a.m.
Benediction at 1 p.m.

St. Stephen's Day:
Masses at 8 and 10 a.m.
Rosary, Evening Prayer &
Benediction at 4.40 p.m.



Christmas Dues

We, the priests of the parish would like to thank all who contributed so generously, and a special word of thanks to all the collectors.

Readings for Sunday 26 December

Gen. 15:1-6, 21:1-3. Ps. 104 Heb. 11:8, 11-12, 17-19. Lk. 2:22-40.