



Sunday, January 8th, 1995.

**BALLINEASPAIG
BULLETIN**

Baptism of the Lord.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
15 BENEVA CROSS, CO. RMFROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM***The Dean writes*

My dear friends,

Welcome 1995 - it's a privilege to write to you in the first Bulletin of the New Year. The start of 1995 is not just another year, it's a very special opportunity and challenge to do something beautiful for Jesus.

Pope John Paul's new book "On the Threshold of Hope" sets the tone for us as we launch into the New Year. The recurring theme in the opening chapter is: "Do not be afraid", which of course is a quote from Jesus himself - and which He repeated so many times after his Resurrection when his followers were unsure and confused.



Jesus is asking us to love to the point of foolishness in the eyes of the world - love and pray for those who do you harm and resent you. "If you love those who love you what reward can you expect, even pagans do as much."

But then Christ asks us to do so many things that appear to be neither cute nor clever. The gurus of this world may smirk and mock, and call on us to clean out our own backyard. However, we are not in the business of throwing more stones, we are for building hope and confidence for the future. And this is no foolish aspiration - we are going forward with our hand in the hand of God, there is no need to be afraid. We are mindful too that 1995 will not come round again, and hopefully next Christmas we will thank God for all He has done through us - weak and frail though we are in ourselves.





Julia Breen, The Orchard, Farranalea, died in Norwood Grange Nursing Home after a period of poor health. She is fondly remembered as a kind, bright and good neighbour, loving and caring mother, and a devout woman of faith. We offer our sympathy to her son John, who lives in our parish, to her other sons and daughters, her sisters, family and friends.

Mary O'Brien, Wilton Gardens, died in the Regional Hospital recently after a short illness. Mary's extraordinary memory for people, and for her family in particular, kept her in touch even though she had not gone out for some years. A kindly woman who showed care, kindness and generosity has passed quietly to her God just as she lived in this world. Sympathy to Robert and Agnes, her sisters and family.

Maureen O'Donovan, Leesdale, died recently in the Regional Hospital. A large gathering of her family and friends paid tribute to Maureen and testified to her integrity and thoughtfulness. She kept her own counsel but lived a full and caring life. Our sympathy to husband Richard, her son John, who lives in the parish, to Linda in New Zealand, and the other members of her family.

We pray for the late Mrs. Kitty Carr, Bendemeer Park, who died recently. A gentle lady in every sense of the word, one who never had a bad word to say about anyone, welcoming, cheerful, generous, prayerful, are the words that come to mind when we speak of her. To her daughters Mary, Kathleen and son Joe, and grandchildren, we offer our sympathy and prayers.

We pray for the late Mrs. Chris Coffey, St. Francis Avenue, who died suddenly during the week. Generosity would have been her hall-mark, caring for her husband Don who suffers from ill-health, and always thinking of others. To Don and family we offer our prayers and sympathy.

Veronica Murphy, Leesdale, died unexpectedly on New Year's Day. Vera came to Cork from Belfast with her family twenty-four years ago. She is remembered as a gentle, soft woman with a great gra for people. She endured many hardships with patience and a smile. She was taken back to her beloved Belfast for wake and burial. Our sympathy to her husband Jim, and family.



We offer our sincere sympathy to EDITH LYALL, Woodlawn, on the death of her brother.

To KIERAN O'GHADY, Rosabrook, on the death of her father Thomas.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

AN UTTER MESS

What a year 1994 has been for the Church in Ireland. What a year 1994 has been for Irish Society.

If we were to take some of the Media headings and place them in a time capsule, to be opened a century from now, how would history judge us?

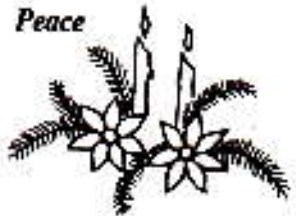
Or, if we could move back a century in time, how would previous generations judge us?

Is Irish Society degenerating? Is Christian Morality declining? Or has human frailty always been what it is today, just that, human and frail? Always depending on the love and compassion and support of a God who is, at the one time, all-loving and yet trusting. Trusting us to choose the path of right living... or to bend the rules, follow the devious path and risk making an utter mess of our lives.

We hear not a word about the wrath of God these days. Let us hope and pray that the loving and forgiving God we profess to believe in and to worship listens to our prayer and sorts out the mess we have gotten ourselves into.

I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

Peace



PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in association with Diocesan Pilgrimage will take place from Sunday 11th June to Friday 16th ex Cork. Price £355 approx. fully inclusive. Hotel Galilee Windsor, 5 mins. from Grotto. Deposit £60. Sixty places have been reserved for parish, so it is advisable to book immediately at Joe O'Reilly Travel Western Road, 270395, or Blarney, 385700.



Pastoral Council

Meeting on Monday 9th at 8.10 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Bulletins to Homes

Every home in the parish should receive a Bulletin next weekend, delivered by our ever reliable distributors whom we thank.

As Gaeilge

Beidh an Aifreann i nGaeilge an Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog.

Sums of Money Found

In Laburnum on 4th December. Apply to Sacristy.

On Glasheen Road. Enquiries at 341694.

Purse found in Church containing a sum of money. Apply to Sacristy.



Weekend Pre-Marriage Course

1995 Dates: February 10th-12th, March 31st-April 2nd, June 9th-11th and October 20th-22nd. Further information from Fr. Christy Fitzgerald 304325 or Joe Mansfield 968635.

Liturgy Group

A meeting of the Liturgy Group will be held on Monday, 9th January, at 8.10 p.m.

Bishopstown Community Association

Next meeting at Wilton Park House on Tuesday 10th at 8 p.m. If you live in Bishopstown or have an involvement in a voluntary group in the area we issue a special request to you to come along and contribute to discussion on community issues.

This month we are asked to make a special plea for Bishopstown Meals-on-Wheels who would like to hear from any persons willing to cook. Each cook is only required to work a couple of hours one morning every few weeks, and are urgently needed. Enquiries please to Betty McCarthy 542187 or Mary Holohan 884455, or call to Wilton Park House any day between 10 and 11.30 a.m.

The BCA would also like to take this opportunity to wish everybody in the community a Holy and Peaceful New Year.

Thank You

We are most grateful to our friends in St. Catherines School who did their usual job in folding and stapling the Christmas Bulletin. Thank you very much for your help.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr Crowley will visit Kerley next week.

Readings for next Sunday

The readings for Sunday, 15th January are:- Is. 62:1-5; Cor. 12:4-11 and Jn. 2:1-11.

Priests' Emergency

Number : 271551