



Sunday, 29th January, 1995

No. 409



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
DEVMYHSCROSS, CO. DUB.

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. John writes*

## Reading the signs of the times...

At the time of Christ's birth there were around 200 million people in the world. By 1800 the earth's population had reached a billion. By 1900 it had doubled to two billion, and between 1926 and 1976 it rose to four billion. The 1980s saw the five billion mark passed. In the light of these statistics, we now have regular international conferences on the population issue. At the most recent, the Third International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 1994, a loose international consensus developed along the following lines:

1. Abortion and compulsory sterilization cannot be means of birth control.
2. Structural poverty in the world must be tackled urgently.
3. The position of women must be improved in every respect.
4. Reproductive health is important. In the words of the Cairo action plan, this means 'the right to information and access to safe, affordable and practicable means of regulating fertility and

the right of access to appropriate health services which enable women to have a safe pregnancy and birth and help parents to have a healthy child'.

This consensus is amazingly close to the Catholic Church's view of responsible parenthood as expressed in the Second Vatican Council. Responsible parenthood, in effect, means that parents themselves must decide, in responsibility for themselves, their children and the whole world, how many children they want to have.

*Fr. John*



## SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to Sister Redempta Coughlan, St. Catherine's School and St. Columba's Convent, on the death of her father.

## FEAST DAYS

Wednesday February 1st is the Feast of St. Brigid, Secondary Patron of Ireland and known as Mary of the Gael. Founding a monastery in Kildare, she gave her life to hospitality, almsgiving and the care of the sick.

Thursday February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. Candles will be available at the Church doors, 50p each, before the three Masses. Retain your candle and the priest will bless them all before each Mass.

Friday February 3rd is the Feast of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after each Mass. While St. Blaise is traditionally associated with this blessing, we are told that "he worked hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people."



### The New Catechism...

1261. As regards *children who have died without Baptism*, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness towards children which caused him to say: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them', allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism.

## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

### A MORAL MORASS

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has come and gone. Did it make any impression on us? Did we REALLY pray for Christian Unity? Did we respond to St. Paul's plea: "For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you... to be united again in your belief and practice." Or, did we leave the opportunity go by again?

Christians from the various Churches met in St. Michael's Church of Ireland church in Blackrock to give praise to God and to pray for Christian Unity.

Fr. Michael Crowley, P.P., Church of the Real Presence, Curraheen, gave a spirited homily on the apathy and the lack of enthusiasm for Christian Unity. He spoke of the scandal of disunity in the light of Christ's plea, "that they may all be one."

He emphasised the need for credibility among Christians in a society that is becoming more and more pagan. We live in a moral morass which was never more in need of hearing the Good News that we Christians have to offer.

He was saddened, he said, at the disunity among Christians when peace and unity seemed possible in Northern Ireland, in Russia and in Europe. He felt disheartened, too, by the lack of enthusiasm for Christian Unity among Church leaders.

Fr. Crowley's plea was to bring the passion back into the



efforts towards Christian Unity, to really pray for it, to restore Christian credibility in today's world and to respond again to the Lord's plea: "that they may all be one."

*Editor's note: Isn't it revealing and rather sad to note that even in St. Paul's time, so close to the EVENT, there was disunity among Christians?*



### Bulletin Prayer Resource

Aim this week - *trying to become more aware of God's presence.*

The first rule of prayer is: Pray as you can - Do not pray as you can't.

Feel comfortable with your present prayer. Accept the gift of your present prayer as God's way with you right now. Love yourself. That's a good place to begin. If you do not pray, then today, right now, might be just the time to begin. If you feel cynical about God and all talk of prayer, move on. Leave now, otherwise, you will do damage - to yourself, to others. There is a place of peace for you. Find your peace.

To become aware of God's presence you can use the vocal prayers that have been part of your life. Choose one. The Lord's Prayer is as good as you'll get. Go through it slowly. You have all the time in the world. Let your mind and heart wander where-ever - ruminant, reflect, wonder, ponder - in your own way.

A note on prayer to the *Bulletin* with queries or observations, is very welcome.

## PLEASE PRAY *for*

Mary Casey, Farranlea Grove, died recently after a brief illness. A quiet, serene woman with a big heart, she gave of herself freely wherever there was need. Whether at the Coffee Morning, at Meals-on-Wheels, at Brigini, at Mass, in the parish, Mary was ever ready and always reliable. Her quiet prayerfulness, her deep love of the holy Mass, her duty at home with family and friends, all blended together into a unity in her life making her a wonderful person. She is deeply missed. Our sympathy to her children, Patricia, Willie, and Catherine and to her brothers, and family.

Sr. Margaret Mary Gallagher of the Poor Clare Community died peacefully in the Bon Secours Hospital on January 16th aged 88. A native of Foynes, Co. Limerick, she is survived by her youngest sister, Nellie.

Joy, not sadness, was the keynote of farewell to one who had lived the Poor Clare way of life for over 62 years. Her human touch and Franciscan sense of celebrating life, together with deep concern and compassion for all God's people, bonded her to all who knew her.

Her favourite poem to Our Lady began: "Hail, pure white lily..." and sure enough, shortly after being laid to rest in the Poor Clare Cemetery, the pure white snow began to fall and gently settle on her grave. May she rest in peace.



First Friday

Next Friday, 3rd February, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection takes place at all Masses next weekend.

**\*PLEASE\***

Hard of Hearing ?

Would the person who got in touch with us requesting a Loop System in the church please contact one of the priests.

**An Invitation**



EVENING PRAYER

Vespers will be sung at 4p.m. on Sunday January 29th in St. Mary's Church, Popes Quay, Cork. - All are welcome to attend.

Monastic Afternoon

On February 5th, 2.30-5.30 p.m. at St. Benedict's Priory, Cobh. Talk and display on monastic life, refreshments, slides, vespers. All welcome.

Readings for Next Sunday

The readings for next Sunday are Is. 6:1-2,3-8, Psalm 137, 1 Cor. 15:1-11, Lk. 5:1-11.

**Scripture Corner**



Clay relief, height 11cm from the Larsa Period (ca. 1960-1860BC) Baghdad Municipal Museum.

As the potter is free and sovereign over his vessels, so God's works are completely in his hands.

See, before God I am as you are;  
I too was formed from a piece of clay. - Job 33,6

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 1st in the C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

Cork Simon Community

Will hold a Food Run in the Leesale area this Monday night, 30th January. Non-perishable food items, particularly tea and sugar are requested. As well as food, detergents, disinfectants, etc. would be of benefit. Collectors have official ID cards/armbands.

**Priests' Emergency**

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