



Sunday, December 10th, 1995

BALLINEASPAIG
BULLETIN

Second Sunday of Advent

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEYS CROSS, COBKFROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM***The Dean writes***Gifts for Christmas.**

Christmas, as everybody knows, is a time for giving and receiving. Quite often we deplore the expensive, but useless, toys given to children. The same could be true of ourselves. Many of the gifts we give and receive are about as useful as a "lighthouse in a bog".

What about turning our attention to some spiritual gifts - gifts we really need - gifts we can ask from the One who

loves us, and wants to give. After all, the central message of the Christmas celebrations is that God loved us enough to send his only Son to effect our redemption. He still cares and loves us. Remember too Jesus was truly human as well as God, He understands us, He can feel for us.

Now is the time to ask for what we need most - deeper faith (Jesus never tired of stressing its importance) - to pray better - to have hope - perhaps a little reassurance. Be not afraid - when God is on our side, does it matter who is against us.

God will surely give the gift you need most. That will assure you a really happy Christmas.



Our own Parish Calendar for 1996 is on sale outside church doors at a special price of 20p.

It features drawings from the Book of Kells, the Book of Durrow - the four Evangelists, the Ardagh Chalice, the Cross of Cloyne, the Lismore Crozier.

Times for Masses, Confessions, arrangements for Baptisms and Marriages, date for First Holy Communion and Confirmation - all are listed.



BOOK REVIEW

Last year a friend lent me "The Woman's Book of Confidence" by Sue Patton Thoele. I found it so wonderfully helpful that recently I ordered it for myself, and also by the same author, "The Woman's Book of Courage", which has the sub-title "Meditations for empowerment and peace of mind". It is published by Conari Press, Berkeley, C.A., U.S.A., 1991.

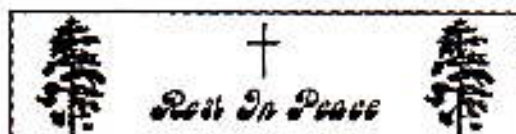
The charm for me of these books of meditations is that while their spirit, gentle and humorous, reminds me of some of Fr. Anthony de Mello's marvellous books, such as "One Minute Nonsense", "One Minute Wisdom", "The Heart of the Enlightened", they also reflect, for the first time in my reading experience, a keen awareness of the specificity of women's spiritual journeys.

The guidance of lay people in spirituality has for a long time, I think, suffered from two facts. It was derived nearly exclusively from the experience of celibate religious people. And it presented an exclusively male model for the spiritual life. That traditional guidance was thereby in some ways unsuited to the religious needs of female spiritual seekers in their search for holiness and God. Hence my joy at these books which encourage a healthy and holistic feminine spirituality!

Madelaine MacNamara

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to ANNA HERRICK, The Manor, Model Farm Road, on the death of her mother.



Annie Cronin, Farranlea Road, died peacefully in the South Infirmary after a short period of ill health. She was ever active, chatty, always game for a hand of cards and a deal of fun. Well know for her wit and turn of phrase, she is missed from church and neighbourhood where she made a lively impact and kept us on our toes. Her faithful presence at church and to her friends is remembered. Our sympathy to her son, daughters and family.

Stephen Casey, Leedale, died unexpectedly recently. A quiet and retiring man who was fond of his walk and committed to the Bishopstown GAA club is sadly missed by family and neighbour alike. He will be missed especially by his wife Phil to whom he was devoted and his family. Our sincere sympathy to them all.

Kitty Higgins, Roger Casement Park, died peacefully in Cork University Hospital last weekend. Kitty was the last surviving member of a large family, and one of that generation of mothers who worked hard and reared their families well with slender means in hard times. Her deep faith and concern for people as well as her pride in her children and grandchildren stand out. Sympathy to all her large family.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Understanding Drugs (contd...)

To be or not to be - A Saint

I read recently that Peter was one of the greatest saints because of his humanity, which included his good and his weak points.

I read too of the canonisation of Eugene de Mazenod, Founder of the Oblates.

I reflected also on the many who did not bring glory on themselves or their church. Yet they, too, are loved by God.

The New Catechism of the Catholic Church says that "the saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church's history", practicing heroic virtue and living in fidelity to God's grace.

But I wonder are any of us in a position to make this judgement? Not for a moment am I suggesting that the saints whom we look to as models for Christian living are unworthy of the honour we have bestowed on them. What I am uncomfortable with is the thought that we, all of us, are possibly not the ones to judge who is "saintly" - and who is not!

[Redacted text]

To those who will say that it is "sour grapes" on my part - maybe so. I will certainly never make the calendar of saints. But I'll certainly go on "hanging in there !!".

ECSTASY - THE TRUTH

It can kill you the first time you take it.

It can lead to promiscuity - AIDS.

Abortion.

It causes blackouts.

It causes urinary infections.

It affects your blood pressure.

If you suffer from diabetes, asthma, epilepsy, depression - it can be fatal.

If mixed with alcohol it can have very serious consequences.

It can lead to Anorexia.

It can cause psychosis - acute mental illness, paranoia and delusions.

It causes brain damage.

A conviction for possession means poor job opportunities and no visas to travel.

Ecstasy was first made in Germany in 1914 as an appetite suppressant, but was never produced as a medicine and it was not until 1970 when it was rediscovered by a group of American Psychotherapists. In the late 1970's it became abused in the USA because of its reputation as a so-called 'love drug'. It did not become popular here until the start of the 'Acid House' music scene and the 'Rave' dance phenomenon.

WHEN I WANT TO SPEAK LET ME THINK FIRST;

IS IT TRUE?

IS IT NECESSARY?

IS IT KIND?

IF NOT LET IT BE LEFT UNSAID.

JOSEPH CARLEY



Bulletins to the Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to the homes next weekend.

Aifreann le Gaeilge

Leifear Aifreann as Gaeilge an Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog. Tagaigi agus bigi pairteach linn.



Fun Bingo Night

Mount Mercy College Parents Asscn. are holding a fund-raising Bingo night at Bishopstown G.A.A. on Friday 15th December at 8.30 p.m. Admission £3. Lots of prizes and raffle.

Christmas Story in Song

At Sacred Heart Church on Thu/Fri 14th/15th at 8 p.m. a musical reflection of Christmas. Tickets £4, family £10, O.A.P. £2.

People of Faith

Monthly Mass on Wednesday 13th December at 8 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. Theme is "Mass of Giving" and you are invited to bring a donation of money which will be given to the less well-off in our society through various religious channels.

Can You Help?

St. Vincent-de-Paul urgently require a buggy/go-car for toddler. Please ring 541617 for collection or leave at C.P. Centre mornings only.

RE M I N D E R

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

Featuring
MESSIAH

(Excerpts)

GLORIA

(Vivaldi)

JOHN GIBSON

(Piano)

Cor an Spioraid Naoimh & Lionsa

Conductor: Patrick Killeen

Orchestra leader: Frances Horgan

♦
Sunday 10th December 8.00pm

Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit
Dennehy's Cross, Cork.

♦
Admission (by ticket) £3.00

Students Unwaged / OAP £1.50

Family Ticket (Two adults / Children free) £4.50

Tickets at door

Readings for next Sunday

The readings for next Sunday are : Is. 35:1-6.10, Psalm 145, Jm. 5:7-10 and Mt. 11:2-11.

ALICE IN CHRISTMASLAND!

The December FOLD is essential Christmas reading. Read Alice Taylor's thoughts on the way we celebrate Christmas today. Get helpful tips from other parents, too. Celebrate SHARE's 25th Birthday. Canon Tom Kelleher reflects on the Second Vatican Council 30 years on. St. Joseph's Mayfield ...

Parish news ... Reviews ... and more ALL FOR JUST 60p!