

Sunday, January 7th, 1996



No. 448

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENEHYS CROSS, COBK

The Baptism of the Lord



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
The Dean writes

Welcome 1996.

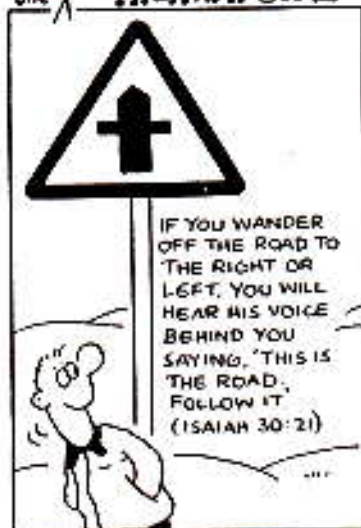
When I was a patient in hospital over a year ago there was a little nurse on night duty who came into the ward in the dark of the morning, put on the lights, and greeted us with a cheery "Here we go again".

At the start of a New Year - "Here we go again" - with talk about New Year Resolutions - turning over a new leaf - a great time to make a fresh start, etc. etc., but for most of us it's nothing more than that. In fact, we could find this thing about New Year Resolutions quite irritating - "we tried that before and it didn't work". We develop a kind of antipathy born of long experience and broken dreams.

Yet, the fact remains that the world's achievers confidently make new beginnings after repeated failures, they plot the future, and continue to strive to make dreams come true. (How many finally succeeded in kicking the smoking bug after repeated failures, or broken the grip of drink after years of struggle, not to mention the great inventors in history).

Who knows, 1996 might be just the year we made significant changes in our lives! Why not take our courage in our hands, reflect on what needs to be changed in the sight of God - this really could be it. If we are prepared to pay the price for making our dream come true, then this means taking responsibility for what we do. Then put your hand in the hand of God, and face 1996 cheerfully and with confidence.

The ^{CHRISTIAN} HIGHWAY CODE



Readings for Sunday 14

Is. 49:3.5-6. Ps. 39 1 Cor. 1:1-3.
Jn. 1:29-34.

COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

THE IRISH CHURCH AND THE MEDIA

Time and again the media has been criticized for its lack of coverage of religious matters. There were many times during 1995 when the Church in Ireland must have wished that we could go back to that state!!

Perhaps a chastened church will emerge? Our church is made up of saints and sinners, gifted members and some with obvious frailties. Hopefully, lessons can be learned. An obvious one is that the truth, however unpalatable and humbling, is always preferable to the half-truth, the deceit, but especially the patronising "we know best".

But, lest we lose our priorities, the church is not about alcoholic bishops or child-abusing or womanizing priests, though we must care for these too in a Christian way. It is about spreading the Good News of God's love and God's forgiveness and God's promise of salvation. There are many good bishops, priests, religious and lay who help to do this and who give very faithful service to their calling. Perhaps in 1996 the media might concentrate a little more on this aspect of church?

It would go far in restoring the morale of so many of our priests who must feel so battered at this time. They deserve no less.

I wish all readers of 'Luke' a Holy and Fulfilling 1996.



Rest in Peace

Hannah O'Connell, Sheares' Park, died peacefully at home, cared for by her son, Martin. Hannah has been housebound for some time, but is remembered with affection by her neighbours. She was known for her independence of mind and her strong faith. Our sympathy to her family.

Margaret Nevin, Lima Lawn, died unexpectedly while visiting her son in Dublin. She possessed a no-nonsense, direct approach to life and her motherly values of integrity, thrift, and loving care endeared her to family and neighbour alike. Our sympathy to her husband, Seán, and family.

Anne Garvey, Sheares' Park, died at the University Hospital after a period of ill health. She was hospitable and welcoming and a great provider for her children. She had a word for everyone and was well liked. Our sympathy to her husband, Alec, and family.

We pray for the late Cait Fahy, Bishops court Road, who died recently. Cait taught for many years in Ballincollig Girls N.S. and testimony to her work there was evidenced by the number of former colleagues and pupils who attended the funeral Mass. To her brothers and sisters we offer our sympathy and prayers.



CHRISTMAS '95

It's all over, bar reckoning with the bank statements and credit union. What is it that brings out in so many people all the frantic dashing and spending and anxiety?

There were some memorable moments which occurred before Christmas. First of all on Sunday 10th December we had a wonderful concert in the Church. Taking part were two choirs, an orchestra, a concert pianist and three soloists. It was masterminded and conducted by Paddy Killeen, our church organist and choirmaster. The effort in terms of preparation and practice must have been immense and great credit is due to all who were involved.

One small suggestion - perhaps a few Christmas hymns/songs/carols would have been welcomed by some members in the audience.

To Paddy and all the performers many thanks for a very enjoyable night.

Another beautiful ceremony took place in the church earlier that day. The annual children's Christmas Mass was celebrated by Fr. John and co-ordinated by Sr. Ursula. The children made cards to hang on the Christmas Tree and brought wrapped presents which were given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to the needy. It was a lovely Mass and the children were great. Best wishes go to Carmel O'Shea who was unable to attend due to a recent operation. Carmel was involved in this Mass on previous years and will be with us again next year.

Finally, Midnight Mass. There is something very special about this Mass: the interior lights showing the majesty of the building, our three priests concelebrating, the magnificent flower arrangements, the Christmas Wreath, the choir, the altar servers and priests in procession down the aisle after Mass to meet the congregation and, of course, people with a feeling of peace and goodwill towards everybody, even if it is only for a short time!

Congratulations must also go to the people responsible for the hard work which went into creating the crib.

As parishioners, we are very lucky to be in Dennehy's Cross parish - long may it all continue and good health to those concerned.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to LUCY HURLEY, Mount Eden, Model Farm Road, on the death of her mother.

To MICHAEL BOURKE, Bishops court Road, on the death of his brother.

To HELEN NOLAN, Model Farm Road, on the death of her son.

To ANNE KOS, St. Francis Avenue, on the death of her mother.

I trust in thee, O Lord.
Psalm 31:14



Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday at 8 p.m. in
C.P. Centre.

REMINDER

Answers to quizzes in Christmas
bulletin must be delivered to the
C.P. Centre this week-end.

CONGRATULATIONS

**RITA SHAW RECEIVES
VERY SPECIAL AWARD**

We are delighted to see that our
own Rita Shaw was recently
awarded the Margaret Burke
Sheridan Award for achievements
in her profession as a singer.

At a special prize-giving
ceremony in the House of Lords,
Bank of Ireland, Dublin, to which
she was invited as a guest, she
was totally taken by surprise to
find she was getting this great
honour. The award was presented
to her by the Vocal Heritage
Society of Ireland.

Right from the time Rita (then
Rita Lynch) won the inaugural
John McCormack competition in
1939 her career as a singer
flourished. Her operatic debut
was with the Dublin Operatic
Society in Donizetti's L'Elisir
d'Amore in 1940. She went on to
sing in Boston, Chicago and New
York, on the Michael O'Duffy
radio show and with the Boston
Pops conducted by Arthur
Fieldler. She sang with many
great singers here and abroad,
including Canon Sidney MacEwan
and Frank Ryan.

John McCormack said of her,
"She has something very special."

Rita, we are so proud of you.

Letters to the Editor

256 Howth Road,
Dublin 5

Dear Sir,

Last Sunday (10 Dec) I attended a
most wonderful Choral Concert at the
Holy Spirit Church, Dennehy's Cross.
The variety of programme chosen was
superb and the soloists and choir were a
delight to hear.

Mr Patrick Killeen deserves hearty
congratulations and I'm sure all
concerned must be very proud of him.

I will remember that night for a long
time to come.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Marie McLoughlin

Madelaine Mac Namara
Glasheen Road

Dear Editor,

Recently the Dean wrote
about spiritual presents. I
received such a present this
Christmas when I visited a
relative at her retirement home.
She recited for me this little
verse: "It takes a lot of living
in a house to make it home, a lot
of sun and shadow and somewhere
else to roam."

Emergency Number 088-519940