



Second Sunday of Advent

No. 487

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Sunday December 8th 1996



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENREIFFS CROSS, CO. CAR.



FROM OUR
PARISH TEAM

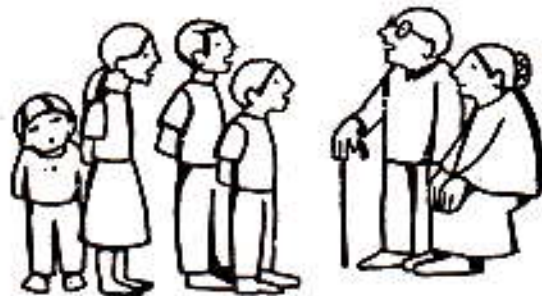
Sr. Ursula writes

The Germans have a Christmas custom called Kristkingle. My introduction to Kristkingle happened like this. One Advent I was at what could be called a retreat/workshop. At the beginning, the priest who was giving it suggested that we put all the names into a hat and each draws out one. We were to keep the name secret but were to try to treat that person as we would the Christ Child during the week-end. He stressed that we were to be as unobtrusive as possible and not smother anyone with unwanted attention.

Bi go maith agus ní raibh go holc, as they say, until I noticed on the second day that my Kristkingle was obviously distressed and had been crying. What was I to do? I wanted to do a good job and I suppose to be seen to have done a good job at the end of the retreat. That, however, was my need and thank God I recognised it as such. The last thing that poor lady needed was a bumbling do-gooder, who was a stranger, intruding into her privacy and distress. I did a lot of soul searching and learned a lot about myself, about sensitivity and about what it

meant to really consider the needs of other persons. I am glad to say it all worked out well in the end.

I was reminded of this experience by hearing someone say that Christmas can be a difficult time for many people. Families come together, but it is not always sweetness and light. It can be very difficult to really focus on another person's needs, even for a day as I learned during my retreat. A mother who is tired and harassed from all the preparation and cooking, children who are noisy and excited and elderly relatives who are not used to noise are not always an easy mix. It takes a lot of focusing on other people's real needs, not the needs I imagine they have, to make it go smoothly. The miracle of Christmas is that so many families manage to do this.



What soever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.



Rest in Peace

We pray for the late Mary Redmond, Avondale, Model Farm Road, who died recently. Mary was a daily Massgoer during her time here in the parish. She was a woman who took great pride in her home, and one who always extended a warm welcome to anybody who visited her. She spent the past while in Cuskinry Nursing Home, Cobh, since her illness. Mary will be missed by all who frequented daily Mass and all who met her on her daily journey to the church. Mary was pre-deceased by her husband. We offer our sympathy to her sister Kay, who now lives in Avondale.

Though she hadn't been well for some time, Peggy Crowley's death came as a shock to everybody. A quiet and sensitive lady, Peggy was a loyal and regular attender at our Church. We offer our very sincere sympathy to her husband Christy, to her sons John and Thomas, her brothers Michael and Fr. Thomas, her sisters Mary and Sr. Thomas. May she rest in peace.

We pray for the late Peter Hegarty, The Grove, Model Farm Road. Peter was well known in the English Market where he had a butcher's stall. In his company you were always guaranteed a good time because of his sense of humour. Peter hadn't been well for the past few years and was pre-deceased by his wife Mary. To all the family we offer our sympathy and prayers.



Congratulations to the following parishioners who were married during the last few months:

COLETTE CROSS, 'Glenealy', 61 Wilton Gardens, who married Sean Slevin, Carrigaline.

JOHN DUNNE, 'Elsinore', Model Farm Road, who married Ciara Dalton, Uam Var Estate.

JOANNE HARLEY, Convent Lane, Bishopstown Avenue, who married David Condron, Carlow.

FINBARR KENNEALLY, 28 Leesdale, who married Barbara Keating, Dillons Cross.

VALERIE LONG, 28 Parkway Drive, who married Kevin Glavin, California.

DAN LYONS, 14 Kenley Drive, who married Louise Hartnett, Parteen, Co. Clare.

CELINE MULLANE, 31 Mount Eden, Kenley, who married Kieran Collins, Ballincollig.

PAUL MCKEON, 16 Parkway Drive, who married Martina Healy, Knocknaheeny Avenue.

ANN MacVERSTON, 35 Orchard Court, who married Edmond Ryan, Ballincollig.

PADRAIG O'DONOVAN, 8 Kenley Close, who married Vera Calnan, Clonakilty.

RACHEL SHINNICK, 20 Bishops court Road, who married Ted Bradley, Omagh.

Sympathy.

We offer our sincere sympathy to MATT DUNNE, Elsinore, Model Farm Road, on the death of his brother, Dermot.

To JACK HEGARTY, 2 Bishops court Lawn, on the death of his brother Peter.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

Some years ago I heard of a confidence trickster who dressed well and frequented golf clubs and rugby clubs and stole cheque books to fund his gambling habit. He was caught and imprisoned. At his trial it was revealed that he came from a well-to-do family, had married 'well', had a lovely family and ran a very successful business. Gambling reduced him to stealing for a living. He had lost all.

I thought of him recently when I read the editorial in the October issue of 'Reality'. It was headed 'The Gambling Addiction' and some of the statistics quoted by Gerard Moloney, C.Ss.R, the editor, are shocking in every sense of that word.

He claims that tens of millions of pounds - yes, that's the figure, tens of millions of pounds - are gambled annually in Ireland. Last year £23 million was spent at our greyhound tracks and many more on horse-racing both at the track and in bookies' offices. Total revenue for the National Lottery last year was a staggering £303 million!

A bit of harmless craic? Just
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He calls for a review of the operation of the National Lottery which, Fr. Moloney claims, has institutionalised gambling in this country. It has encouraged huge numbers of people to gamble with money which they cannot afford. Poor people buy more tickets than anyone else. We all love to dream!

He calls for gambling education in our churches and in our schools and for more prevention and treatment programmes. He even suggests that the National Lottery provide the funding for these programmes!

For those who might wish to avail of the service, GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS are at 41 MacCurtain Street. Their telephone number is 501501.

LUKE REPLIES:

It was heartening to have a response to 'Media Comment' even though I was accused of Government bashing and being hysterical. I have always been very slow to 'invade' the area of politics. I made my comments on the basis that little real information was made available by Government through the media or indeed anywhere else. In a democracy I believe Government had a duty to do this. I feared this lack of unbiased information would lead to a situation where, in fact, 30% of the voters decided by majority vote on a very fundamental issue. But this is their decision and, as a democrat, I must abide by it. Lest it be viewed otherwise, I am a very apolitical animal with no party affiliations.

Thank you for the opening bouquet and, indeed, for the criticism. I will keep away from politics for a while!



NEWS

Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end. Please let us know if you do not receive a copy. We would like to thank all our distributors for their help.

Pastoral Council

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

Mass for Sick and Housebound

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 14th December at 3 p.m. in the Crypt. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. We would request Contact people to ensure that transport is available where required.

As always, the organisers are dependant on the wonderful response from Contact people and parishioners who supply sandwiches and cakes to ensure that those who attend the Mass enjoy the social aspect afterwards.

Traffic Problems Bishopstown Area

Bishopstown Community Association will hold a public meeting at Bishopstown G.A.A. Club on Tuesday 10th December at 8 p.m.

Powdermills Toastmasters Club

The mission of the Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth. Through the club's education programme we aim to become better thinkers, listeners and speakers. Why not come along and try it out as our guest. Next meeting Wednesday 11 December at 8 p.m. at the Westpark Hotel, Ballincollig.

Coffee Morning

In aid of the Irish Kidney Association at Dennehy's Cross Bar on Wednesday 11th December, 10.15 - 12 noon. Christmas gifts, novelties and raffle. Please come along and support.

Readings for Sunday 15 December

Is.61:1-2, 10-11. Ps.Lk.1.
1 Thess.5:16-14. Jn.1:6-8, 19-28.

PARISH TEAM

Dean Denis O'Connor, P.P. 542972
Fr. Finbarr Crowley, C.C. 343895
Sr. Ursula O'Callaghan 545549

Emergency Number 088-519940

To be used when you cannot contact the priest at his home.

ER