



Sunday December 15th 1996

No. 488



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEMENTYS CROSS, CORK

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Third Sunday of Advent



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

Christmas is a time for giving, as well as receiving gifts. It's an old and blessed custom. The Lord himself said, "It is a more blessed thing to give than to receive." It is also a blessed thing to receive graciously. The gift might be small, but think of the love - and perhaps sacrifice - that inspired the giving.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote, "It is in giving that we receive" - so true, and there is more to giving than just handing out goods or money. In fact, it may be more important that we give of ourselves. I was reminded of this recently in reading the life of Venerable Frederic Ozanam. (Who was he?) I bet you thought, like I did one time, that the St. Vincent de Paul Society was founded by Vincent de Paul himself. No so - Frederic Ozanam was the man. He lived in France, 1813-1853. He was a very gifted scientist, lawyer and professor at the famous Sorbonne University in Paris.

As a young man at the University he was the butt of jibes and jokes, as he, and a small minority of fellow students, tried to live the tenets of their Catholic religion. In a strange way God used this experience to focus the attention of this small group on

the plight of the poor in the city. They founded from their meagre resources the first Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

They saw that it is a more blessed thing to give than to receive. But they saw also that the giving needs to be done with great tenderness, love and understanding. Otherwise it could do more harm than good - degrade rather than uplift.

This has been the badge of the Society ever since - and an example for Christian giving.

Carol Service

On Sunday 22nd December at 7.p.m. in this Church. Participating choirs include: Cor an Spioraid Naoimh

Church of the Assumption Ballyphehane
Musical Director - Patrick G. Killceen
St. Joseph's Church Choir, Castlemartyr
Conductor - Tomas O'Tuama

Christmas Choral Concert

On Friday 20th December at 8.p.m. in St. Peter and Pauls Church, with John O'Flynn (Bass) and Michael Tierney (Tenor).

Choirs include Our Lady of Lourdes National School, Ballinlough, Cor an Spioraid Naoimh, City of Cork Male Voice Choir and Lionsa.
Admission £4 - Concessions £2

Reconciliation Services

At S.M.A. Wilton, and Sacred Heart Church, on Thursday 19th December at 7.30 p.m.

KNOW YOUR DATES

Colourful Parish Calendar for sale at all Masses this week-end. Price 20p.

BALLINEASPAIG **B**ULLETIN

Dear Editor,

I have to write to express my delight and enjoyment of the Children's Christmas Pageant and Carol Concert in the Church of the Holy Spirit last Sunday. It was a wonderful experience, very moving, very spiritual. The children excelled themselves. Their singing, readings and playing were outstanding.

As a grandmother who took five of her grandchildren with her, I can well appreciate the trojan work that went into making the event such a wonderful occasion.

It was hard enough to organise five; what must it have taken to organise such a big group of children of all ages?

Well done, to the Parents Committee. They deserve the gratitude and applause of everyone in the parish for the hours of hard work they put into making the Pageant such an outstanding success.

Well done, parents.

Yours sincerely,
Betty Layton

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

In conjunction with the Diocesan pilgrimage, will take place on 11th-16th June. Further information after Christmas. Contact Fr. Finbarr or Joe O'Reilly Travel.

Praying in Advent

Are you interested in experiencing different ways of praying this Advent? If so, why not join other young adults at "Dochas" Community, 19 Montford Park, Mardyke on Monday December 16th at 8 p.m.

Christmas Day Dinner

The Knights of St. Columbanus will hold their Annual Christmas Day Dinner for the needy of the city at the Hostel, Anglesea Terrace, at 12.30 p.m. For further information contact Jim at 341875.

Housekeeper Wanted

For school in Bishopstown Area. Must be eligible for the S.E.S. Scheme. Please contact 542685.

Pantomime

This years Panto in Cork Opera House is Cinderella. Wonderful acting and sets will amaze all children. Tickets are available from the Box Office (270022):

Watch this space for a chance for some lucky readers to win tickets!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the pupils of Presentation College who won the Bayer National Science Quiz recently. The team was captained by John Waldron, Wilton Road.

Congratulations to the following parishioners who won Diograis Awards at Mount Mercy College:
Deirdre Barry-Murphy, Kenley,
Lynne Browne, Leesdale, and
Sinead Lucey, Kenley.

Congratulations to **Brian Burke**, Farranlea Grove, who captained the Irish Senior Schools Soccer team on Wednesday last when they played Australia.

Congratulations to **John Fitzgerald**, Kenley, who played with the Irish U-21 Rugby team recently.

Congratulations to **Pat Mullins**, Jnr., Leesdale, who was called to the Bar recently.

Congratulations to **Bertie O'Hanlon**, Barna, Model Farm Road, who was honoured by the Irish Rugby Writers with a 'Hall of Fame Award'.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

As we move through the Season of Advent, our thoughts are concentrated on the imminent arrival of the Infant Jesus. There is, perhaps, the danger that our relationship with Jesus is an emotional one; all of us (well, almost all) love babies. But infants grow up and the adult Jesus is someone that many of us find it difficult to relate to in a human way. He was, after all, Man, albeit the Son of God.

For this reason, I found the BBC 1 TV series on the "Lives of Jesus" fascinating. On Sunday night, Mark Tully, concentrating on "Jesus the Jew" took us on a tour of the Holy Land. We visited places with the old, familiar names like Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Bethany and, of course, Jerusalem. And he spoke of "Jesus the Jew" for that was what He was. He would have preached about setting up God's Kingdom on earth as foretold in Deuteronomy and Leviticus. He taught and worshipped in the synagogue where He would have been completely "at home".

Mark Tully, the presenter, spoke of his own personal difficulty in viewing Jesus as Jewish. Like the rest of us, he viewed Him as a Western Christian whereas He was, in fact, a middle-eastern Jew. And, as a country Rabbi, He took on the power of the Roman Empire - not at all what He set out to do - and paid for it with His death. And he asked the question: isn't it ironic that a crucified Jew could cause 2,000 years of anti-semitism? He also claimed that this very anti-

semitism deprived the Jewish people of centuries of the beauty of Jesus' teaching.

Looking and listening to it all made me wish, once more, to visit the Holy Land. The presenter spoke with many 'experts' on Christ's life and teachings, including Jerome Murphy-O'Connor. Like so many others who have visited the Holy Land, Mark Tully was aghast at the exploitation and the commercialism.

I was left with a picture of a Jesus who took on a difficult task, was supported with a handful of men who were not the most reliable, who felt, more than once, forsaken by God, who died on a cross without appearing to achieve what He set out to achieve - and who changed the world!!



We pray for the late Carmel O'Flaherty, College Road, who died recently. Carmel had suffered ill-health for the past number of years and was cared for lovingly by her husband Paddy and daughter Virginia. Despite her illness Carmel never lost her sense of humour and positive attitude to life, and was a great neighbour and friend to all who knew her. To Paddy and Virginia we offer our prayers and sympathy.

Special Thanks

Maureen Hartnett wishes to thank all her kind neighbours and friends for their Mass Bouquets, visits, telephone calls and Get Well wishes during her recent illness. Wishing all a very Happy and Holy Christmas.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

MASSES

Christmas Eve

9.00, 10.00
6.15 p.m. Vigil Mass
Midnight Mass at 12.00

Christmas Day

8.00, 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

Thursday 26th

10.00 and 12 noon
Please note change of times

Friday 27th

9.00 and 10.00

Saturday 28th

9.00, 10.00, 6.15pm.

Wednesday 1st January

10.00 and 12 noon
Please note change of times

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 21st

12 - 1 p.m.
Before and after Vigil Mass

Sunday 22nd

After Masses

Monday 23rd

Penitential Service at 7.30 p.m.
Visiting Priests

Tuesday 24th

11 - 1; 3 - 5; 7 - 9.

POOR CLARE MONASTERY

Christmas Eve :

No Benediction

Christmas :

Masses at Midnight, 8.00, 10.00.
Benediction 1.00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Day :

Masses at 8.00 and 10.00.
Benediction as usual.

27/28/29 December :

Masses at 8.00 and 10.00.
Benediction as usual.

Parish Church Mass Notice

Sunday 5th January

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Monday 6th January

Feast of the Epiphany

Holyday of Obligation

9.00, 10.30, 12.15, 7.30 p.m.
(no Vigil Mass on Sunday 5th)

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940