



Sunday December 22nd 1986

No. 489

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Fourth Sunday of Advent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENHAYS CROSS, DUBLIN



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Finbarr writes

CHRISTMAS RAGE!

In the past few years "road rage" has become very much part of a motorist's vocabulary about people who react to others whilst driving, and it's not at all pleasant to read or hear about.

Last week on B.B.C. News they spoke about another new phenomenon "Christmas Rage" - how people get so stressed out, not only do they spoil the festive season for themselves, but they ruin the enjoyment of this joyful time for others as well. The pressures of shopping, entertaining visitors, travel, over indulgence and so on were some of the examples given for this "Christmas Rage".

I love this time, visiting family and friends, the "feel good" factor, the thoughtfulness of people towards one another, because it's a season of goodwill. I hope that this Christmas will bring many blessings to my family, friends, parishioners, and myself as well. The birth of Jesus is a reason to celebrate. I pray and wish that we will all be able to do so in peace and harmony.

CHURCH SERVICES

MASSES

Christmas Eve: 9, 10, 6.15pm.
Midnight Mass at 12.00.
Christmas Day: 8, 9, 10.30, 12.15.
Thursday 26: 10.00 and 12.00.
Friday 27: 9.00 and 10.00.
Saturday 28: 9, 10, 6.15pm.
Wednesday 1 Jan: 10.00 and 12.00.
Sunday 5 Jan: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.
Monday 6 Jan. Feast of Epiphany:
9.00, 10.30, 12.15, 7.30 p.m.
(no Vigil Mass on Sunday 5th).

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 21: 12-1, before and after Vigil Mass.
Sunday 22: After Masses.
Monday 23: 7.30pm Penitential Service. Visiting Priests.
Tuesday 24: 11-1, 3-5, 7-9.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY JANUARY 3RD there will be EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Please consult the chart in the centre aisle of the Church for your committed time.

As the special intention for this month will be FAMILIES in our parish, may we suggest that, if they can, families would come and spend some time together with Jesus.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

May we add our tribute to that of Betty Layton in last week's Bulletin? As parents and grandparents, we too can appreciate all the work that went into preparing for the Children's Christmas Mass and Pageant. In this busy season it would be all too easy to neglect to say, well done everyone. The children, in their innocence and enthusiasm, were inspiring. Indeed they could set a headline for us all!

There are so many good things going on in our parish, such as the monthly children's Mass in the Crypt and the monthly First Friday day-long Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and our thanks are due to the many people who quietly organise these and other events along with our Parish Team, and whose efforts are not always recognised. As the year comes to a close, we say well done to all. Your efforts are appreciated.

Sincerely,
Eileen & Pat Lemasney

NOTICE

Powdermills Toastmasters Club

Looking forward to Christmas! And then the New Year! But what about your new year's resolutions? Why not resolve to join Toastmasters and develop skills that can transform your life? Our Club is holding a demonstration meeting at the Westpark Hotel, Ballincollig, on Wednesday 8th January. You can find out what it is all about. Come along at 8 p.m.

Shanid,
Model Farm Road.

Dear Editor,

Please let one have the name and telephone of LUKE the Media Commentator on the Bulletin. Why is his (her) name a secret? Has the church become more secretive and less transparent than the politicians? What have ye to hide?

Sincerely,
Patrick Fitzgerald, M.D.

The Editor replies:

It is not unusual for columnists to remain anonymous. Should people find out the true identity, it is often felt that the value of the viewpoints expressed would be diminished and ridiculed. We will not be revealing LUKE's identity and this decision is final!!!

Pastoral Council News

The Pastoral Council met on Monday 9th December. Members were given the Sunday Collection envelopes for distribution and by now each home should have its box for 1997.

A word of congratulations to the young adults in their Ministry as Readers of the Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Masses. Your families should be very proud of you who have volunteered to be part of this Ministry, and in so doing give witness to your calling as Christians.

May we wish our Parish Team and all parishioners a very Happy Christmas and every Blessing for the New Year.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

The December Reader's Digest tells us that "It wouldn't be Christmas without the inspiring voices of the King's College choristers" singing in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge.

In the Sunday Tribune of December 15 we read that "Christmas only starts when we go to the carols in the Cathedral", meaning St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. St. Patrick's choir was established in 1432, so it's a long-standing tradition.

In our own city we have a long tradition of carol singing in the various churches to help us concentrate on what Christmas is all about. Long hours of

practice go into the preparation of these services and they are all the more appreciated as a result, even though the often small turn-out wouldn't indicate this.

As if to disprove all the beautiful sentiments expressed above, I had occasion to drive through the city centre today, Sunday December 15, and I had to ask myself, what have we done with the Lord's Day? Is it really necessary to prepare for Christmas with such an orgy of spending on the Lord's Day? I felt sad. And then I thought back to Friday night when I attended a carol service in the church of St. Francis. Half a dozen choirs gave praise to God with their beautiful singing and the night ended with the massed choirs singing 'O, Holy Night' while the magnificent voice of Cara O'Sullivan took us to new heights. Now that's what I call preparing for Christmas!

THANK YOU

The Irish Kidney Association wishes to thank all who supported their recent fund-raising coffee morning. It was a very pleasant social occasion and congratulations to our local winners of prizes. A special word of praise for the management and staff of Dennehy's Lounge Bar for their hospitality and co-operation.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to ANNE BYRNE, Merton Lodge, Model Farm Road, and CHRISTOPHER FITZGERALD, Leasdale, Model Farm Road, on the recent death of their father.



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. Killeen

St. Joseph's Church Choir, Castlemartyr

Conductor - Tomas O'Tuama





SAMARITANS

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SILENT NIGHT

For some people, Christmas is the loneliest time of the year. But it doesn't have to be. The Samaritans offer a listening ear and a friendly voice to the lonely, the suicidal and those in despair, 24 hours a day. Every day - even Christmas Day.

Now you can reach us on

1 850 609090

for the cost of a local call, from anywhere in the country - so don't spend Christmas suffering in silence.

The Samaritans

WE'RE HERE, WE'RE LISTENING AND WE CARE.

FAS Mass

Mass will NOT be celebrated in FAS on Christmas Day.

Thank You

To all who helped with the Mass for the Sick - drivers, those who provided sandwiches, cakes, etc., and all those who worked so hard.

A special word of thanks to the girls in Transition Year at Mount Mercy College.

Ministers of the Eucharist

Please collect your new rota at the altar rails.

The Samaritans is a nationwide charity which provides confidential, emotional support to any person, irrespective of race, creed, age or status. The problems dealt with on an on-going basis include people with suicidal thoughts, loneliness, exam stresses, financial difficulties, health issues, alcohol or other addictions, sexual problems, abuse, bereavement and loss.

The Samaritans stress the absolute confidentiality of the service; they don't ask who you are, and just introduce themselves by way of a first name. They offer a listening ear 24 hours a day, every day. You can talk about anything that is troubling you: they will not judge you or tell you what to do. They will try to help you think things through, and listen with an open mind for as long as you need.

In Cork the premises at Coach Street, near the Mercy Hospital, is open 365 days of the year, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and is open to anyone who would rather meet a volunteer face to face in a private room. The telephone number is 1850 609090 for the cost of a local call from anywhere in the country.

Emergency Number 088-519940

Readings for Sunday 29 December

Gen.15:1-6,21:1-3.

Ps.104 Heb.11:8,1-12,17-19.

Lk.2:22-40.