



Second Sunday after Christmas

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Sunday 5th January 1997

No. 491



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENMEYS CROSS, DORK

The
glory
of the



Lord
shines
upon us.



Happy New Year



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Finbarr writes

Early redundancy has been part and parcel of business and industrial life for the past number of years. Anybody over 50 who discovers there is no longer a job there is quite worried that he or she may never hold down a full-time job again.

One of the few places where you are guaranteed work whilst you are mentally and physically active is the Church. Full-time retirement is not part of the vocabulary of religious and priests. Maybe we religious and priests have a unique position in saying, "It's an employee's market".

A parishioner, writing in December's FOLD, page 2, "Dwindling Clergy, Awakening Laity" made, I feel, a number of very open and valid points. I wish to quote two paragraphs from his article.

1. "The trouble is I don't know what I can do to improve matters. Is the time now ripe for the laity to insist on implementing the rescue package?"
2. Or is the time right for the statement from the altar. "We're as unsure as yourselves as to how the pastoral and administrative duties of power in the parish are to be spread. We only know that if they're not spread, the clergy are going to suffer burnout even before they die out."

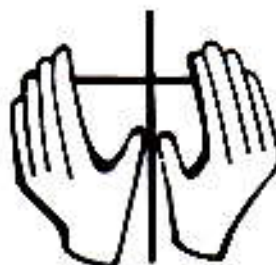
Is our parishioner calling for collective ownership and responsibility on the part of all

in tackling the many problems, and continue the good work for the Church?

I have experience of missionary life where there were thousands of people and few priests. Those who participated in any way in church activities would also take responsibility in the decision making of the local church at least. The priest didn't ask who is in charge of the choir, for example; it was assumed that somebody did organise responsibility.

Do we cop out and ignore that things have to change? Or do we pray, discuss and act to make the Church of Christ a witness to Him? The choice belongs to all of us.

Any suggestions for the New Year?



FORGIVENESS

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," says the Lord's Prayer.

I read recently that "once you forgive, you are no longer emotionally handcuffed to the person who hurt you." And, "When you forgive, you reclaim your power to choose. It doesn't matter whether someone deserves forgiveness, you deserve to be free."

Forgiveness leads to inner peace. It's worth going out on a limb for, surely?



On November 12th, Pope John Paul granted a private audience to pro-life, pro-family workers gathered in Rome from many countries to attend the final mega-conference of the decade - the U.N. Summit on Food. The audience was a memorable occasion. When His Holiness blessed our work and families, I included our Irish families - "semper fidelis to the Holy See".

Dr. Mercedes Wilson, a permanent member of the Guatemalan government to the U.N. and an indefatigable NFC worker, read the address, thanking His Holiness for his firm leadership. His Holiness encouraged all to continue the fight against the 'culture of death' and to speak for those with no voice. His appearance set our niggling fears about his health at rest; he walked without crutches and his voice was firm and strong. He was very generous with his time

and was clearly delighted by the singing of a family of twelve from Utah.

When I told him I came from Ireland he replied with a handshake, "Ireland, always Ireland."

On the following morning he was scheduled to open the plenary session of the U.N. Summit. His stature as a world leader is undeniable. There was a palpable hush and a sense of awe awaiting his speech.

The vibrancy of the Church as she enters the new millennium was brought home to us on a visit to the 'Legionaires Christi' seminary overlooking the ancient city. There are 300 seminarians studying for the priesthood (including some Irish). An extension to house 90 more had to be built to cope with its bulging numbers.

Jane Quinlan



We pray for the late Ted Stack of The Belfry, Model Farm Road, who died recently. Ted was described by one person as "Mr. Highfield" because of his involvement with Highfield Rugby Club at all levels, as player, coach and administrator. He will be missed in the Club for his tremendous generosity towards the young players whom he spent many hours coaching. A quiet and unassuming man, we offer our sympathy to his sisters, but above all to his sister Noelle with whom he lived.

We pray for the late James (Jim) Moylan of Merlyn Lawn who died recently. Jim was a former employee of Cork County Council and a much liked one at that, if the attendance at his funeral by former colleagues was anything to go by. Jim was a man who just got on with life, who travelled extensively to visit his family abroad, and who had a deep and traditional faith. To all his family we offer our sympathy and prayers.



The parish team wish all our parishioners a very happy and holy 1997.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to all the church celebrations at Christmas.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit Farranlea Park in the coming week.

Bulletin Production Teams

Bulletin teams can collect their rota for the next six months from the C.P. Centre.



Thank You

From the Bishopstown Unit of the Order of Malta for all donations gratefully received at our church gate collection on 21/22 December.

Thank You

To the pupils in St. Catherine's school who folded and stapled our Christmas Bulletin, and also to Miss O'Hea and the teachers who facilitated this very valuable job.

Readings for Next Sunday

The readings for Sunday 12th January 1997 are ; Is.55:1-11, Psalm Is.12, 1 John 5:1-9 and Mark 1:7-11.



Don't Forget

Entries for the Christmas competitions must be in to the C.P. Centre by Sunday, 12th January.



MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 6.15pm
Sunday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.
Weekdays: 9.00 and 10.00.

PARISH TEAM

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