

Sunday 12th January 1997



No. 492

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

The Baptism of the Lord



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
DÉANÉ HILL CROSS, COBK.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Sr. Ursula writes*

## LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Sometime before Christmas, Maeve Binchy posed a very interesting question in her column in the Irish Times: "What Christmas present would you like to get which cost nothing?" It set me thinking. In fact, I did receive a lovely, lovely gift which cost nothing. Here is the story.

Shortly after coming to this parish I got to know Niamh (not her real name). Confidentiality forbids that I tell Niamh's story in full, but if I did I can assure you it is one which would "make the angels weep" - deaths (yes plural), unemployment, sorrow and anguish of many sorts, and I have been privileged to be with Niamh and her family in their many struggles. It has not been easy and many would have given way to total despair - they struggled on. The week before Christmas I met her. "How are things?", I asked. "Not bad at all," she answered, "would you believe it, this year I am actually looking forward to Christmas." "That Niamh", I said to her, "is one of the nicest things I have heard in a long time." It was, in truth, one of the best presents I got this

Christmas.

Why do I tell this story at the beginning of a New Year? It is not only the Queen who has her *annus horribilis*. There is not one of us who does not hit a very bad patch from time to time. Life is like that, and if we are in the throes of personal suffering, it is not easy to see the bright side of life. Yet, it is a long road that has no turning and there is light at the end of the tunnel. The helpless infant who had every door closed against him at his birth walks with us in our suffering. He walks with us, not only in our suffering, but on to the turning of the road to where his joy and his peace are again, and we come from the valley of darkness into his own wonderful light.

May he who is called Wonder Counsellor and Prince of Peace walk with each one of us in the year ahead and may his presence bring us strength, courage and peace.

### PARISH TEAM

Dean Denis O'Connor, P.P. 542972

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Emergency Number 088-519940

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

## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

### THE NEED TO PRAY

I'm not a cinema buff, but one film that I've seen in recent years has left an impression on me, prompting me to see it again on video. I was rather pleased to watch it again last week on TV. The film? "Shadowlands" with Anthony Hopkins, portraying the life of C.S. Lewis with great sensitivity and tenderness, I thought.

It seemed to me such a change from the gratuitous violence we see so often on our screens (but this is the way life is, we are told) and what passes for love (but which, so often, is voyeuristic and debasing).

Interpersonal relationships were played out, I thought, in an entirely credible way and genuine love seemed to come about almost by stealth. Then disaster struck and, like we all do, Lewis resorted to prayer. When his faith was commended, he hit back with a passion: "I pray because I need to; because the need flows out of me all the time!"

What a beautiful piece of theology! I don't know whether C.S. Lewis ever uttered these words in real life, but I would like to think he did. All I know is that the words made an impression on more than one person in our home. I would also like to believe that I will always have the humility to believe that they are true.

## Letter to the Editor

WE NEED TO GRASP THE NETTLE!

Hillcrest,  
Laburnum Park

Dear Editor,

Fr. Finbarr, in responding to the FOLD article by one of our own parishioners entitled "Dwindling clergy, awakening laity", invites suggestions. Perhaps I could make a number of points?

Firstly, our church, 'though hurting as a result of the many scandals, is alive and vibrant. Secondly, I would suggest that there has never been as much involvement by the laity in the church. Witness the numbers enrolling for adult religious education courses and involvement at parish level. But herein may lie the problem.

Fr. Finbarr quotes two paragraphs from the FOLD article. I'll abbreviate them.

1. I don't know what I can do to improve matters. (from the lay person).
2. We're as unsure as yourselves. (from the priest).

With all the goodwill in the world, this situation can only lead to frustration and stalemate and is certainly not good for the future of the church in Ireland.

A suggestion has been made within the diocese that it is time to appoint a facilitator. This facilitator, given the necessary skills, could bring about a meeting of minds on all the issues that confront the church at this time. This person could be made available to all the parishes of the diocese and could respond to the various. (Continued at end of next column)



## Rest in Peace

Jerry O'Sullivan, Bishopstown Avenue West. Jerry had been battling his illness for some months and finally left us on the last day of 1996. He was a native of Uibh Laoire - and proud of it. An astute and enterprising businessman, he shared the fruits of his success most generously, and without patronage. The hymns and songs of his native Ballingearry were rendered with feeling at his funeral Mass by Seán O Se', and many a tear was shed. We offer sincere sympathy to his wife Margaret, son Dan, daughters Mairead, Mary, Anne and Bernadette, brother and sisters and his many relatives and friends.

Dan Loughry died peacefully at his home in Highfield Lawn on December 17th. Dan was a native of Co. Kilkenny. He came to Cork as a young man, worked in the retail grocery business and married Rita Browne. He was a gentle man and loved by all who knew him - young and old. We extend our sympathy to his wife Rita, sons Hilary and Tony, his daughters-in-law Marie and Cecilia, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Sadly, his sister Maureen died shortly after Dan. May they rest in peace.

needs of individual parishes, seeking out and encouraging those with particular skills, either on a voluntary basis or a part-time or full-time basis.

Fr. Newman, before he left our parish for Ballinhassig, encouraged us to plan for a parish with reduced numbers of priests. How prophetic! It is not a time for panic. Nor, I believe, is it a time for mediocre planning. We need to grasp the nettle and get it right first time. We have the Lord's promise to be with us always. But we can't leave it all to the Lord. We have to use the talents He provided us with. He wasn't impressed with those who buried their talents!

Yours sincerely,  
Pat Lemasney

Declan McSweeney died on Thursday 2nd January. Declan left his home at Woodleigh Park about ten years ago, and went to reside in Douglas Nursing Home. He was pre-deceased by his wife. His former colleagues on the professorial staff at U.C.C. gathered to tender their sympathy to his son Niall (Dublin), and Paddy (New York) who was unable to be present due to illness. To his family, sister and grandchildren our sincere sympathy.



We offer our sincere sympathy to PATSY CURTIN, Farranlea Grove, on the death of her mother. To SUZANNE MCCARTHY, Sharon Vale, Laburnum Drive, on the death of her mother.



### New Year's Resolution

Mass Missalettes are provided - at your expense - to assist attention to Readings and prayers at Mass.

Please take one - and please return to box after Mass. Thank you.

### Bulletins to Homes

Next week-end bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish.

### As Gaeilge

Beidh an Aifreann i nGaeilge agus Béarla an Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog.

### Blood Transfusion Service Board

At the SMA Centre, Wilton, on Thursday 16th January from 3.00-5.00 and 7.30-9.30.

### A Grand Concert

In aid of The Second National Song Contest for Peace will be held in the School of Music on Friday 17th January at 8 p.m. starring artistes from Opera South (Special Guest Fiona O'Reilly), John Gibson (piano), Mayfield Brass Band. Adm. at door: £5.

### Day of Prayer and Reflection

Including Mass of the day, on Sunday 19th January, 10.00-5.30 in St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore. Tel. 502520 for booking and further information.

### Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit the remainder of Farranlea Park, The Orchard and Farranlea Grove in the coming weeks.

### Pastoral Council

Meeting on Monday 13th January at 8.10pm in the C.P. Centre.

### Children of Marital Breakdown

A programme for parents who are about to or who have separated will be held at 34 Paul Street on Wednesday 5th February at 6.15pm. Early booking is advisable as there are only a few places available. For booking or further information please ring 275678.

### **TRAFFIC PROBLEMS**

#### **IN BISHOPSTOWN AREA**

A committee has been set up under the auspices of Bishopstown Community Asscn. representing the various areas in Bishopstown in an effort to alleviate the ongoing traffic problems in the area. The committee has members from Melbourne, Brampton Court, Woodbrook/Stratton Pines, Hawkes Road/St. Joseph's Lawn, Curraheen Estate, The Rise, Halldene/Benvoirlich, Ballineaspaiq/Firgrove/Westgate. This Committee would welcome members from areas not already represented. Submissions and suggestions regarding the traffic problems in the area would also be welcome from any member of the public. Submissions to tel. no. 545790 not later than Thursday 16th June. Our next meeting will take place at Wilton Park House, Wilton on Tuesday 21st January at 8 p.m.

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### MASS TIMES

Weekdays: 9.00, 10.00.

Saturday Vigil: 6.15 p. m.

Sundays: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

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### Readings for Sunday 19 January

1Sam.3:3-10, 19. Ps.39.1.

Cor.6:13-20. Jn. 1:35-42.