

Sunday 2nd February 1997



BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

The Presentation of the Lord



No. 495

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENVER'S CROSS, COOK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

'Everything that happens in the world happens at the time God chooses'. We read these words in the Book of Ecclesiastes. For me, it now seems to be a time for study. You will not see me around for the next few months, as I am taking time out to do a scripture course.

My feelings fluctuate between excitement and panic. Excitement because I love scripture, am thrilled at the chance of studying it in greater depth, panic because I am very apprehensive about going back to being a full time student at this hour of my life. Excitement, however, has won out. In my young days in religion (after Vatican II), we were told "To be ignorant of scripture is to be ignorant of Christ". I cannot say that I am completely ignorant of scripture. I thank God that I had enlightened Superiors who took Vatican II seriously. Scripture has been the main source of personal prayer for me for over twenty years. Any additional help with or knowledge of scripture has to spill over into prayer.

The Dean and Fr. Finbarr have been very supportive and I want to thank them both for that. I realise that the timing is not great and I said so to the Dean. His reply was, "Ursula, this course had to be applied for a long time ago and how was anybody to know then what the situation would be. Take it. You won't get the chance again."

So, with those wise and kind words I'm on my way. Please remember me in your prayers during Lent and I won't forget you in mine.

Sr. Ursula

A Travelling Prayer

Lord,
today
I shall be travelling
in a bus
and perhaps
in the underground too,
and I shall find time
to forget for a while
the difficulties
of every day
and think on lovely things:
a longed-for baby that has
just been born,
a blackbird singing,
a flower blossoming,
a sky that is blue,
and a gentle river
winding through a field.
You are in the midst
of my thinking
and love fills the whole of my being.
Thank you, Lord,
for these moments
of peace and joy.

Wedding



Congratulations to Elizabeth and Edward Beechinor, Bishopstown Road, on celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary last weekend.

A Celebration of Married Love

A special Mass to celebrate the love and commitment in marriage will take place on St. Valentine's Day on Friday 14th February at 7.30 p.m. at The Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Anne (North Cathedral). All the family is welcome.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Emma Murphy, Kenley Drive, who won the U-14 All Ireland Indoor Tennis Championship.

THE FOLD

The February issue will be of special interest to parents of primary school children. It describes in detail all that's involved in the changes to the management of primary schools. It explains what's involved in the election of new Boards of Management, something which has just been initiated in these dioceses.

Matt Murphy, from Sherkin Island, writes on the island's recent experience of being a parish without a priest. Could it be a prospect that faces others soon?

Wally McGrath - Cork's 'Mr. Scouting' for 60 years is profiled, as is Tom Egan, recently retired manager of Veritas bookshop.

There are several articles with a Lenten flavour, a new competition and lots more.



Progress Without Change

Most people are in favor of progress; it's change they can't stand.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

Marian Finucane, presenter of Liveline on RTE 1, launched "Net Nanny" during the week. "Net Nanny" is a software package from Indigo which limits access by children using the Internet to, among other things, pornography. Loaded onto personal computers, it allows parents to control the type of information accessed by their children.

According to a survey carried in February's 'Reality' magazine, there is little enough parental control over what our children watch on TV, whatever about the Internet. This particular issue of 'Reality' is well worth buying and studying, dealing as it does almost exclusively with TV, its power and its effect on people, especially the young.

According to Dr. Patricia Casey, "we must not be passive agents of its reception, but its masters" and "our personal, spiritual and psychological development is potentially impeded when television replaces books and videos replace conversation."

Some of the statistics are frightening. 80% of children have watched adult videos without the permission of their parents and a huge 63% have watched an adult video with their parents' permission.

Perhaps we are all becoming conditioned to violence, explicit sex, the seamy side of life on 'the box'. Maybe it's time we became more discerning? If the adults in the community are complacent about such standards, is it any wonder that our young people are following suit? What do you, dear reader and viewer, think?

"Luke"

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 7th February, 10.30am to 7.30pm. Once again we ask that you refer to the chart to check the time you committed yourself to spend with the Blessed Sacrament. It appears there is a misunderstanding about this commitment. Each person who signed is committed for every month at the time signed for. If you cannot continue with your time, please delete your name. There is a problem filling 11am to 12.30pm. Please can you help?

This month's intention: Pray for the gift of Hope especially for those who find life hard.

WHY PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH

An unknown writer offered the following analysis of why some people attend church

*Some go to church to take a walk;
Some go there to laugh and talk.
Some go there to meet a friend;
Some go there their time to spend.
Some go there to meet a lover;
Some go there a fault to cover.
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there for observation.
Some go there to doze and nod;
The wise go there to worship God.*



Announcements

LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday (February 12th)
Mass: 7.30am, 9.00, 10.00, 7.30pm.

Daily Mass:
Mon.- Fri. 9.00, 10.00, 7.30pm.

Sunday Devotions: 5.30 p.m.

Taize Prayer: Thurs. 7.00-7.30pm.
(Please note change of time).

First Friday

Next Friday, 7th February is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Divine Mercy Apostolate

National Conference of Divine Mercy at R.D.S. on 15th-16th February. Speakers: Fr. Jim McCaffrey, OBC., Fr. Damien Ryan and Fr. Cathal Price. Details in church porches.

YOUTH QUIZ

A Quiz will be held for young people aged between 11 and 15 years on Friday next, 7th February, at 7.30 p.m. in the Crypt. Admission 50p. per person, with four people to a team.

Computer Course

At Colaiste an Spioraid Naomh - wordprocessing, database, spreadsheet - beginners start Wednesday 5 Feb., intermediate Thursday 6, 7.30-9.30pm for 10 weeks, cost £50, students £35. Details from 543790. Now that you have bought that computer, why not learn how to use it!

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
Monthly meeting will take place next Thursday 6th February at 8 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit Rossbrook in the coming weeks.

Dóchas for Young Adults

Taize Prayer 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 8 p.m. Just drop in, you'll be welcome.

Justice in our World: Begins Wed. 5th February at 8pm. Five week programme focusing on our responsibility as Christians to build a more just society for all.

Enneagram: A weekend 7/8/9 February with Sr. Bridie O'Sullivan PBVM. Places are limited. Make contact before Tuesday 4th.

Lenten Nights: Begins Thursday 20th February at 8 p.m. "A Change of Heart". Runs for 5 weeks. An opportunity to pray and reflect with others during Lent.

All taking place at Dóchas Community, 19 Montford Park, Mardyke (west end). tel. 346326.

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.