



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1997

# Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Christ, Universal King



No. 528

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK.



## FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

*The Dean writes*

### COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Lapsed Catholics form quite a large proportion of our community at present. I suppose few enough become out and out atheists - some do, and there is a blank in their lives where once there was faith. Some join a cult - and are often quite hostile to the Catholic Church. The majority, however, maintain a love/hate relationship with the Church - fiercely critical of priests, and while they profess they couldn't care less about religion, return to the topic regularly.

It's hard to generalise about reasons for lapsing, but quite often it's an experience when an individual felt the Church as cold and uncaring - perhaps with an individual priest. In spite of all, Faith somehow lives on - like a rugged little plant with deep roots. The truth is there is genuine regret in the Church when an individual priest, bishop or other representative of the Church has messed up a person's life and made them feel unwanted and unloved. We are a human Church - but remember, we are a group where sincere sorrow for wrong-doing has always been respected.

At the end of the day the Church and the lapsed are the poorer for growing apart. No family is happy while some of the children are out there - refusing to come home - nor, I feel, are the children too happy either.

Christmas is a great homecoming celebration. It has always been so. It's a good time to take those first tentative steps towards home in the Church too. The door is open - the welcome warm and sincere. Whatever we might say or feel about human elements in the Church - the important fact is that a loving Father is patiently waiting to welcome us all - and celebrate our return with rejoicing.

### OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

Today the church year draws to a close on a sombre note with a gospel scene from Good Friday. Jesus stands on trial before Pilate accused of being a king. With death staring him in the face his reply is crystal clear. He admits to being a king, but not in a recognisable worldly manner of kingship, as his horizons are not limited to earthly life. Christ is a spiritual leader who rules by truth and love. He is out to touch the hearts and minds of all people and claim their souls for God. His mission on earth is to unfold a vision of this new

world, to announce the Good News that God counts us as family, regards us as his children and in return seeks our allegiance. By the way we live, we declare where our loyalties lie.

#### FOR OUR FAMILIES

Three years ago today, on the feast of Christ our King, the families of our parish were consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at a special Mass. In remembering the wonderful occasion we pray at each Mass today for all our families. We suggest that you bring a nightlight home and light it before the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a reminder of His loving care of us, to thank for His goodness and to ask that He may keep our families one in love, in the joys and trials of life.

Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, grant that every family on earth may become a true shrine of life and love

May your grace guide the lives of husbands and wives for the good of their families.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove stronger than the difficulties through which families sometimes have to pass

Lord, make all families instruments of your peace, your love and your joy

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH,  
PROTECT OUR FAMILIES.

## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

#### A VICTORY FOR FAMILY VALUES?

Dare I mention the Presidential campaign? The pathetic turn-out? The final result? The dignified inauguration?

The media had a ball, of course. The politicians charged and counter-charged. Happily, the candidates kept the head, even under intense interrogation by some of the media practitioners.

Now that the hype has died down, now that all the analyses have been carried out by the media commentators, what remains? Two letters to the press remain in MY mind.

In the first, the mother of Adi Roche expresses the hurt and anger felt by her because of the treatment by a section of the media of her family. Sad. Sad. Sad.

In the second (much later) letter, a Donegal reader expresses his disapproval of the 'chagrin' or 'sour grapes' of another section of the media on their realisation that "the liberal, left-wing candidate only polled 7% of first-preference votes, whereas two of the Christian family value candidates polled a total of 59% of first-preference votes".

A victory for decent Christian family values after all?





#### Deceased Parishioners

Reminder that Mass will be celebrated on Monday 24th November at 7.30p.m. for parishioners who died during the year. Members of each family are invited to attend.



## Rest in Peace

We pray for the late Mary Healy of St. Vincents, Magazine Road, who died recently after a long illness. A native of Kildorrery in North Cork she was very proud of her place of birth. At her Requiem Mass her nephew praised her for the sense of welcome she showed to all who called to her home. A daily Mass goes to the Chapel in the Poor Clares, her faith and her devotion to the rosary went hand in hand with her care for others. To all her family we offer our prayers at this time.

We pray for the late Sr. Declan Cotter of St. Joseph's Convent, Model Farm Road, who died recently. Sr. Declan worked for many years in England, but returned to Ireland to look after her elderly brothers and semi-invalided sister. She came to live in the community in St. Joseph's four years ago, where the care she had shown to her immediate family was returned by her fellow sisters in religion who looked after her with love and care. We pray for her community in St. Joseph's and her nephews and niece in New Zealand, that the Lord will console them at this time.



## CORK & ROSS FAMILY CENTRE

Incorporating  
ST. ANNE'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

#### ST. ANNE'S ADOPTION SOCIETY

In its forty-three year existence over 3,500 people have benefited directly from the services of the Society. Thousands of others - natural parents, adoptive parents and their families - continue to be served by St. Anne's.

St. Anne's provides a wide range of services to people in many circumstances. These include:

- \* Pregnancy counselling (many of CURA's clients are referred for professional assistance);
- \* Accommodation;
- \* Advice regarding services and entitlements;
- \* Foster-care facilities, and support of foster parents;
- Day-care Nursery (at St. Mary's of the Isle - for children of lone parents at work or college.)

The range of post-adoptive services includes:

- \* Counselling people who wish to have contact with their natural mother/parents;
- \* Liaising with other agencies in the time-consuming task of locating natural parents;
- \* Maintaining a register of contacts with mothers who placed babies for adoption with St. Anne's;
- \* Facilitating contact and meetings between adoptees and their natural mothers/parents.

The Annual Collection for St. Anne's Adoption Society takes place this weekend (22nd & 23rd November). Please support it generously.





**Miraculous Medal Triduum**

The faithful and the needy from all parts are welcome to St. Vincent's, Sunday's Well for the Miraculous Medal Triduum, 24th - 27th November. Novena Prayers on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 7.45 p.m. Fr. Brian Magee CM. Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Thursday, 27th November: Mass at 10.00 Bishop Buckley presiding; Novena Prayers 4 p.m.; Festival Mass at 8 p.m. Fr. John McCullagh preaching.

**Ursuline Past Pupils Annual Dinner**

The Annual Dinner for Past Pupils of St. Angela's College and the Ursuline's, Blackrock, will be held at the Country Club Hotel, Montenotte, Cork, on Friday, 28th November. Tickets £20. Please contact 392919 or 541406.

**Christmas Centenary Bazaar**

in S.M.A. Parish, Wilton, on Sunday, 30th November. It opens at 2.00 p.m.

**Thank you from the Lavanagh Centre**

to the residents of the Orchard, Farranlea Park for subscribing £50.50 through the recent house to house collection.

**O'Connell Court/Oakdene House Annual Bazaar**

on Sunday, 23rd November at O'Connell Court, Windmill Road, Cork from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Admission 50p. OAPs and accompanied children free.

**A Musical Serenade**

will be held in the S.M.A. Parish, Wilton, on Sunday, 7th December at 8 p.m. Tickets £5 available in the Parish Centre.

**Monster Bazaar**

in aid of LIFE Pregnancy Care Service will be held on Sunday, 23rd November, from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church Building, Princes Street.

**Aerobics and Line-Dance Classes**

Now on in Prefab, Scoil an Spioraíad Naomh every Wednesday night, 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. Contact Gabrielle 342972. Mobile 087-2317813.

**CHILDREN'S ADVENT MASS**

Your Advent Mass will be held in our church on Sunday 7th December at 12.15.

Don't forget to bring:

1. Your greeting card for the child Jesus, brightly coloured, with a little string attached so that it can be hung on our Christmas tree.
2. Your gift for the poor - it doesn't matter how small or big it is, but wrap it up so that nobody knows what is in it but the child Jesus. After the Mass the St. Vincent de Paul Society will unwrap the gifts and give them to families in our parish who haven't much for themselves this Christmas. Non-perishable food is preferable.
3. Bring all your friends and family with you.

We'll all have a happy time together at this Mass.

More details? See notices at the end of the Church.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**088-519940**