

First Sunday of Advent



Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Sunday 30th November 1997



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DORK



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

St. Ursula writes

Some weeks ago Martin McAleese was interviewed in one of our national newspapers. In 1971 his family were burnt out of their home and he spoke of how he made 'a conscious decision' not to become bitter. "If you show any kind of bitterness," he said, "ultimately it turns inward and you are the one who ultimately loses."

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and my thoughts naturally turn to Bethlehem, which I had the privilege of visiting during my stay last year in the Holy Land. At that time it was a difficult place to visit, as the building project which caused so much unrest was along that road. Stone-throwing youths clashed with soldiers and police and there were checkpoints with long delays. There was a lot of bitterness, anger and violence, just as there has been over the years in our own country. 2000 years of Christianity seem to have made very little difference. War, rumours of war, hatred and bitterness are still very much part of our world.

Being in Jerusalem and so near to Bethlehem, it became natural to ponder these things. It seems to me that each generation has to

fight its own battle against bitterness and revenge. Not only each generation, but each one of us personally has to battle against this evil. It's not an easy war. I know, I struggle with it as much as anybody else. Indeed, I doubt if there is anyone reading this who has not fought his or her own battle in this score.

That is why what Martin McAleese said struck me so forcibly. He made a conscious decision not to become bitter. He didn't say he made a conscious decision not to feel the hurt; that would be impossible. He didn't say he made a conscious decision not to avoid the cause of hurt; that would be imprudent. He said he made a conscious decision not to become bitter.

If each one of us did that in our own lives this Advent, wouldn't it be a wonderful birthday gift for the Prince of Peace on Christmas Day.



Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday, 5th December, from 10.30a.m. to 7.30p.m.

Evening Devotions

Each Sunday of Advent at 5.00p.m.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

CHRISTIAN FAITH A PIOUS MYTH?

In a recent article by Fr. Colm Kilcoyne, he quotes Brendan Ó Madagáin, UCC Professor of Irish, as saying that the crisis in the Irish Church is not due to scandals, to falling vocations, to the lower attendances at Mass or to moral confusion. The problem, he claims, is that the Church ignores the fundamental questions like the existence of God, the Divinity of the Son of God, what happens at the Eucharist, the Resurrection and Life after Death. It angers him to listen to the lost opportunities at Sunday Mass when homilies do not face up to these issues, instead going off "on some item of little importance".

I thought of this article while I watched "Would You Believe?" on RTE 1 when it dwelt with the phenomenon of moving statues, bleeding statues, visions and messages. Mick Peelo, the presenter, moved around the country, interviewing people who claimed to have witnessed or experienced these happenings. There seemed little doubt that those whom he interviewed were genuine and believed that their experiences had a spiritual significance.

But it raises questions. Why the doom and gloom messages? Why the dire threats from a merciful and loving God? Fr. Pat Collins, the Vincentian priest, suggested some answers. He spoke of a Church which, since Vatican 2, has become more rational and

which has adopted a more intellectual approach. It has largely done away with statues which appealed to the believer's sense of piety. These objects of piety are missed by many people and have been replaced by moving and bleeding statues and by visions and messages.

Perhaps there are other, better ways in which the Church can appeal to the believer's sense of piety? The vacuum, if there is one, is in danger, I believe, of being filled by a false and dangerous spirituality which does not serve the Church well.



Lavanagh Centre

Wish to acknowledge the amount of £52.30 generously contributed by the residents of 31-60 Wilton Gardens.

"AVE MARIA" - "DOMINUS TECUM"

"Dominus tecum", "The Lord is with you", the blessing of all blessings and the source of all blessedness. How right our forebears were to greet each other with "Dhia dhuit" and the response: "Dia's Muire dhuit".

Our Irish greeting lifts us to the spiritual plane and is a witness to the bond between God and us.

"He who loves me and keeps my word, the Father will love him, and we will make our home in him."

Sr. Madeleine Lucey,
St. Joseph's Convent



First Friday

Next Friday, 5th December, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Mass for Sick and Housebound

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 6th December at 3.00p.m. in the Crypt. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. We would request Contact people to ensure that transport is available where necessary.

As always, the organisers are dependent on the wonderful response from Contact people and parishioners who supply sandwiches and cakes to ensure that those who attend the Mass enjoy the social aspect afterwards.

Where Is She Now?

Where is Kathleen O'Connor (nee O'Dwyer), formerly of Bishopstown Avenue and Cappoquin - sons Oliver and Paul. Her cousin Eileen Devlin (nee Dwyer) in London wishes to contact her.

Bishopstown Community Association

Members meeting on Tuesday 2nd December at 7.30p.m. at Wilton Park House.



L'Arche Christmas Craft Fayre

On Sunday 7th December at Le Cheile, Togher (beside Church), 10.00-5.00p.m. Quality hand-crafted Christmas gifts.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting will take place next Thursday, 4th December, in C.P. Centre at 8.00p.m.

7.30pm Evening Mass

The evening weekday mass will be discontinued except for the First Friday.

Bishopstown Camogie Club

A.G.M. on Sunday 30th November at 4.00p.m. All parents and players over 14 years welcome.

Found

Pen near C.P. Centre.

Bereaved Parents Support Group

Commemoration Gathering on Sunday 30th November.

2.30p.m. Planting of 'Tree of Heaven' and Placing of Plaque at Bishop Lucey Park, Grand Parade.

3.00p.m. Dedication Service, Book of Remembrance, at Imperial Hotel. Details and photographs of the deceased children will be entered in the book. Please bring necessary details/photos. The events should take approx. 2 hours. Queries to Helen (364695), Ann (291892) and Catherine (312978).



Annual Christmas Dinner

The Bishopstown Social Services Annual Dinner for senior citizens and friends will take place on Sunday 14th December at 6.00p.m. in Bishopstown G.A.A. Pavilion. Tickets £5 and transport available if required. Contact persons:

Nora Fitzpatrick 546358

Brid Hartnett 544693

Michael Haydon 541638

We wish to thank our many sponsors and supporters of this event.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940