



Second Sunday of Advent

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sunday 7th December 1997



No. 530

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CO. DK.



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Finbarr writes

The Mass is the greatest prayer and encounter with Christ that we can have on earth. Let us never demean or misuse its celebration by forgetting that. Primarily, it's a celebration for all the people of God, and it's a priceless one. We, the Irish people have always appreciated the Mass, especially since penal days, and this is evidenced today by the number of requests for Masses on different occasions. Some people have asked me what happens the offerings (stipends) the priest receives.

A priest is only allowed to accept personally one Mass offering a day, even if he says two or three Masses. If he receives an offering for more than one Mass he is bound by Canon Law not to use the offering for his own personal use. He would normally use this money for charitable causes.

When a priest receives more Mass offerings than he can celebrate, he gives the extra offerings to another priest to offer these Mass intentions, usually priests working in places where they would receive few Mass offerings.

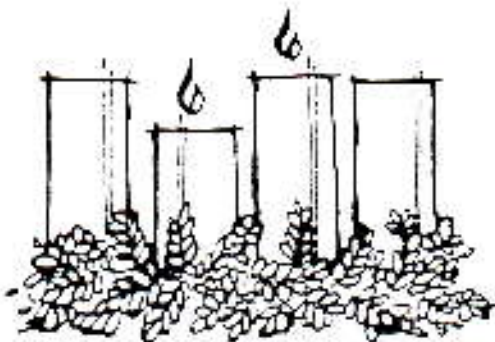
The Mass offering is intended to supplement the priest's income. The Mass is offered for all, and the intention of the person who gave the offering is prayed for in a special way.

Anniversary Masses are very emotional times for people. I'm sure you will understand that it's not humanly possible for any priest to always fulfil the requests of people for specific dates and times. Time does not matter to God. God knows your intention.

The Mass is a sacrifice, and we as participants are invited to share in the sacrifice of Christ by making some offering (not just monetary) of ourselves in union with Him.

Fr. Finbarr Crowley

Second Sunday of Advent





We pray for the late Jane O'Sullivan, Roger Casement Park, who died after being ill for the past few months. To those who knew Jane, a hearty welcome was always assured when you visited her at home. During her illness she was lovingly cared for by her family. Jane was a woman who always came to the point with you - there was no beating about the bush. A devout and prayerful woman, we offer our sympathy and prayers to her family.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to MICHAEL O'HARA, College Road, on the death of his sister.
To MARY SPILLANE, Farranlea Grove, on the death of her brother.

A PARISHIONER WRITES...

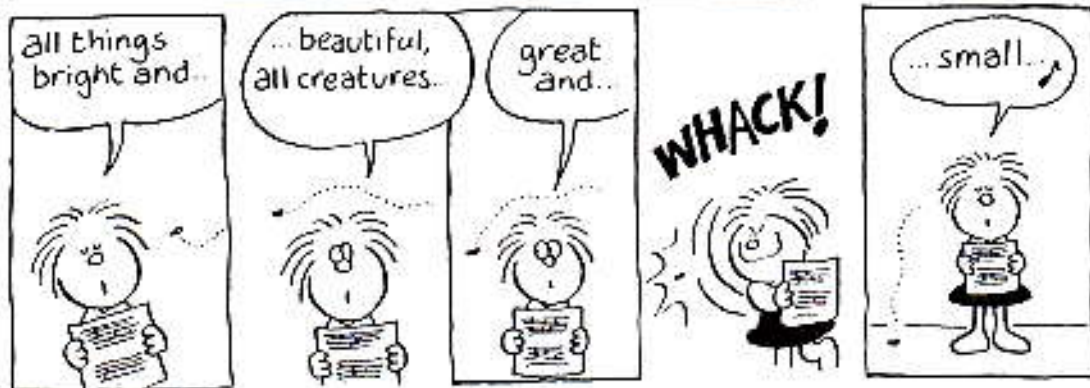
Dear Editor,

Some months ago you highlighted, and rightly so, through the medium of the parish bulletin, the filth and dirt caused by dogs throughout the parish. Apparently, dog owners have completely ignored any advice given to control their pets. Footpaths have never been so bad and dangerous, especially for people with impaired eyesight. The filth is also being taken into the church by people who have, unconsciously, walked on it. It is quite obvious that most dog owners are sneaky, as they take out their dogs at night or early morning, so as not to be seen. Before leaving their own homes why do they not allow their dogs to use their own gardens and not to be stopping shamelessly outside other people's gates and walls to deposit their filth.

Name and address with editor

the mouths of babes

by Roy Mitchell





COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

MORALITY IN THE MEDIA?

NOT for the first time, Bob Quinn of the RTE Authority has taken a stand on the what he sees as the abuse of that particular section of the media. He has stepped down from the RTE Authority until the New Year because of the current 'frenzy' of advertising of children's toys on RTE. He claims that children in one half of the world are being exploited as child labour, while in the other half they are being victimised as child consumers. He also supports 'Buy Nothing Day'. Perhaps we might all consider following his example while donating the money thus saved to a worthy cause?

I WONDER if it has struck you, dear reader, as it struck me? Do you find it ironic that several of the large superstores are currently spending vast sums of money persuading you and me to buy their 'greatly reduced' and 'half priced' special offers? If the offers are so special, is it really necessary to shout it quite so loudly? Is it naive to believe that, with the money saved on the cessation of all this expensive advertising, we might then get some REAL bargains?

MEANWHILE, the madness that is cigarette advertising continues. Surely it must be viewed as a total obscenity the fact that cigarettes continue to be advertised, no matter how glamorously portrayed, as

something that is 'damaging to your health'. It is surely an affront to our intelligence. But then we meekly accept it. So where does that leave us as thinking people?

FINALLY, I was glad to see that action has been taken on the question of 'alcopops', those fruity beverages containing alcohol. Tom Kitt, Minister for Labour, Trade & Consumer Affairs, has set up an independent body to regulate a new code of practice in relation to how these drinks can be marketed. The code will be administered by the Drinks Industry Group, but will be monitored by the Independent Body, as I understand it. Any infringements of the code will mean removing the product from the market. Perhaps public opinion counts for something after all?

The December/January FOLD is available this weekend and there are opportunities to win reading material and copies of 'Faith of our Fathers II'. Other features include:

- * an interview with Presentation Brother Fabian O'Donoghue about the future direction of the Religious Brothers.
- * Bernard Cotter writes about the changes in the pattern of 'Christmas Confessions'.
- * John Newman helps us to appreciate the readings used at Mass during Advent.
- * Seasonal short stories.
- * A complete list of all the pre-marriage courses on offer by the C.M.C.C.
- * Extensive coverage of events from the Church in the world, including reaction to the Vatican's recent comments regarding lay ministry, and much, much more.



Feast of Immaculate Conception

Next Monday 8th December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holyday of Obligation. No Vigil Mass on Sunday. Masses on Monday at 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and 7.30p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection will take place next weekend, 13/14 December.

Pastoral Council

Meeting next Monday, 8th December, at 8.10p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Altar Society

Please collect your new rotas in the Sacristy.

Immaculate Conception

Monday, 8th December, a public procession will be held in honour of the Immaculate Conception, beginning at 8.30p.m. It will start at Dun Mhuire on the Grand Parade and proceed via South Mall, Parnell Place, Oliver Plunkett Street, Winthrop St. and Patrick St. to St. Peter & Pauls Church, where it will conclude with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please bring a candle or torch, and all your friends. If you would like to help, please ring 344473.



Table Quiz

Gaelscoil Ui Riada will hold a Table Quiz at the G.A.A. Pavilion on Wednesday 10th December at 8.20p.m. £12 per table of four. Sponsored by the Ulster Bank.

Alzheimer Society (Cork Branch)

Due to the extension of our services, we are now recruiting extra volunteers to help in our Day Care Centre in Friar's Walk. If you can spare approx. 3 hours of your free time every two weeks we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact 343225 or 311698, Tuesday and Friday, 9.00-5.00p.m. and leave a message.



Christmas Craft Fayre

At L'Arche, Le Cheile, Togher (next to Church) on Sunday 7th December.



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

Readings for Next Sunday

The readings for Sunday 14th December are ; Zeph. 3:14-18, Psalm Is.12:2-6, Phil. 4:4-7 and Luke 3:10-18

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940