



No. 531

Sunday 14th December 1997

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent

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

FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

Just a few weeks ago senior Garda authorities announced that they would shortly mount their annual Christmas blitz against drinking drivers. There was even a suggestion that the alcohol limit would be further reduced. This really sent the alarm bells ringing for some devoted souls.

This is as good a time as any to clarify our thoughts and position on drink. No doubt it has an honourable place in life when properly used. It's part of our desire to extend hospitality to friends and neighbours - and hospitality has deep roots in our Christian tradition. We need to laugh and cry, to celebrate and relax in each other's company. Some people are by nature inhibited and knotted up, and need a few drinks to unwind in company.

Now most people know that alcohol needs to be handled with care - and act accordingly. That's great. Unfortunately, a minority adopt a sort of junior schoolboy attitude to the law - if I'm not caught it's alright. It's not you know. We need an ADULT ATTITUDE to drink! This

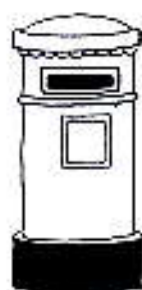
is important rather than the law. We must open our eyes to the reality that drink can, and does, wreck lives - not just on the roads, but in homes as well. Christmas can be a nightmare for too many people, and leaves nothing but sad memories of fear and worry, covering up for the offender, and the real hardship of poverty at the end of it all. These people don't sing and laugh with their friends at Christmas.

These words are not written from a 'kill-joy' attitude to life - but from a humble and sincere wish to encourage everyone to enjoy a lovely Christmas in 1997, and ensure that everyone else will too - and love you for it.

Denis O'Kearney P.P.

**WAITING
FOR THE
LIGHT TO
COME**





LETTER

Dear Editor,

Last Sunday, 7th December, I had the pleasure of attending the 12.15 Mass, where the children's Advent Mass was taking place. It was a pleasure to be there. The church was packed to capacity and standing room was at a premium. The community spirit was at an all time high.

The coming together of the community was greatly appreciated by young and old.

A sincere thank you to the parents and children who gave so generously with their gifts. The teenage choir who sang are indeed to be encouraged. New members are always welcome. The gifted young solo singer was accompanied by a wonderful violinist.

The children's Mass is organised by a group of young mothers who have generously given their time and dedication for the past 3 years. A heartfelt thanks to them for their dedication and foresight in bringing us all together, and uniting us with Christ through our children.

A party-like atmosphere took place in the crypt after Mass, where again everyone was taken care of with a special visit for the young from the man in the red suit, and tea and goodies for old and young alike.

Sunday was an occasion where our community came together and was enjoyed by all. Please

encourage and support these people when organising future community events.

Name and address with editor



We offer our sincere sympathy to MATT DUNNE, Model Farm Road, on the death of his sister.

To MARGARET O'MAHONY, Bendemeer Park, on the death of her brother.

To JOHN FOLEY, Laburnum Drive, on the death of his sister.

To ROBBY O'SULLIVAN, Liam Lynch Park, on the death of his brother.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.

There are two stages in Advent: the first runs until 16 December; the second, which is mainly directed to the Christmas feasts, runs from 17 December until 24 December.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

TOO HARD TO FORGIVE ?

WATCHING television or reading the newspaper, is it not the most natural thing in the world to react to the news of brutal killings, violent rapes and atrocities against humanity with feelings of outrage and anger. Uncontrolled, these natural feelings of anger can easily move on to become urgings of revenge. In this frame of mind, isn't it difficult to think in terms of forgiveness and healing? this is what our humanity requires us to do.

In the November issue of RCOM, editor Kevin Donlon

mountain retreat.

Few of us, I feel sure, have not experienced feelings of revulsion when we read about people like Saddam Hussein or Brendan O'Donnell or Fr. Brendan Smyth. "Rot in Hell" was one of the expletives hurled at Brendan Smyth as he was led away to begin his sentence. But our faith, says Kevin Donlon, is not about this kind of savagery - "a new form of paganism", he calls it. Our faith, he claims, is about mercy and forgiveness, the forgiveness of Christ on the cross who said, "Father, forgive them". It's not easy.



"I LIKE THIS 'GO THE EXTRA MILE' IDEA."
SEE MATTHEW 5:41.

**Prepare ye the way
of the Lord.**



NOTICE BOARD

Great Value at the Price!

The Parish Calendar for 1998 is available at Church doors - price 20p.

Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end.

Christmas Church Services

Details of Church services for Christmas will be printed in next week-end's Bulletin.

Found

Gloves and scarf found in the Crypt after the Mass for the Housebound last week. Please call to Sacristy.

Children's Mass

The children of St. Catherine's School will be holding a Christmas Mass here in the Church on Tuesday 16th December at 10.00a.m. They will be presenting gifts for St. Vincent de Paul Society. It promises to be a very special celebration and all are welcome.

Annual Christmas Day Dinner

The Knights of St. Columbanus will hold their annual Christmas Day dinner for the needy of the city in the St. Vincent Hostel, Anglesea Terrace at 12.30p.m. For further information contact Jim at 341875.

Park'N'Ride

Congratulations to Cork Corporation and Bus Eireann for providing the shuttle bus service from Victoria Cross to Grand Parade. This is a great service and is highly recommended. It commences at 9.30a.m. and runs every ten minutes, with the added advantage of supervised car parking facilities.

Reading for Sunday 14 December

Mic.5:2-5. Ps.79.

Heb.10:5-10. Lk.1:39-45.