

Fourth Sunday of Advent



No. 532

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 1997

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNHURTS CROSS, COBK.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Sr. Ursula writes*

The children's Christmas Tree Mass was lovely and a credit to all those connected with it. The hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of the parents' committee, the joy and reverence of the children, and the support of the parents who encouraged their children to participate all combined to make it a success.

At the end of the Mass, Fr. Finbarr added the final touch by inviting the children to join him on the altar. It was wonderful to see them thronging up for the final hymn. One small boy in particular caught my attention. He was about 2 $\frac{1}{3}$  years old who was beside himself with excitement. He was accompanied by a slightly older sister who kept a tight hold of his hand. There he stood, chuckling and dancing with excitement right in front of the high altar. Suddenly, he spotted his mother. "Hi, Mammy," he called as he began to wave. I think it did everyone's heart good to see him.

It made me wonder what the child Jesus was like as a toddler. Was he a joyful, happy little boy, full of life and fun as was the child before me? As a slightly older child, did he ever

get a 'clip in the ear' from some irate adult who didn't understand the exuberance of children? I found myself wondering. The 'ordinary life' of the 'extraordinary child' who was Son of God and Son of Mary is part of the great mystery of the incarnation.

May this Christmas be a happy and joyful celebration for all in our parish. In the midst of the celebration let us not forget what it is we are celebrating. The birth of a child who was baby, toddler, boy and man and "who grew in wisdom and knowledge before God and men", Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*Sr Ursula.*

The Dean and Fr. Finbarr would like to thank all who contributed to the Christmas Dues. We also extend a special word of thanks to the local collectors. May the Lord bless you all this Christmas and the New Year for your generosity.

## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

I had a conversation recently with a man who had actually given up his lifelong habit of reading the daily newspapers. No, it wasn't because he disagreed with the direction many of today's newspapers are taking. It was because they were so full of tragedy. Old people were being attacked in their homes and robbed. Women, old and young were being raped. Shopkeepers were being attacked and robbed. Children were being abused. All of this was being reported in the newspapers in great detail. He felt he had had enough of it. So he has given up on his lifetime habit.

I was taken a little aback. Perhaps I felt that one person not reading the newspaper wasn't going to alter anything? But he went on to tell me that the real reason for his action was the thought of so much suffering in our country. He found that he could no longer think of it as simply news. These were real people going through real suffering and he carried the thought of their suffering with him.

Perhaps if more of us thought along those lines, we might become a more caring society? Has the news of one more rape, yet another battering, one more murder become as commonplace as the news of the ups and downs of the stock-market, or the latest political scandal? And, if this is so, is it because we have allowed it become so?

## Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to PAT MURPHY, Leesdale, Model Farm Road, on the death of his father.

To TED O'DONNELL, Slane Lodge, Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of his mother.

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

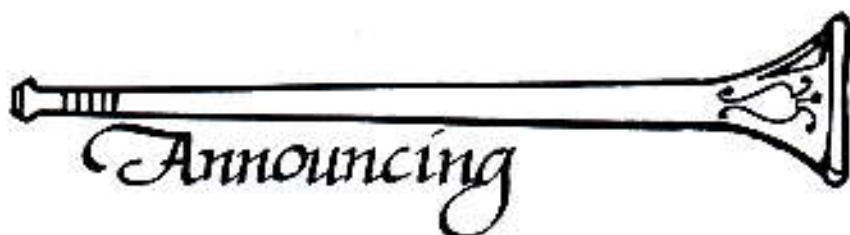
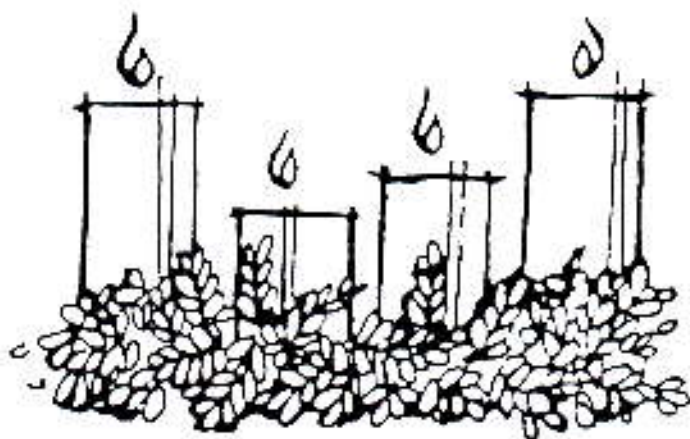
To KATHLEEN FAHY, Farranlea Grove, on the death of her son, and to GERALDINE on the death of her brother. Also to NED, Magazine Road, on the death of his brother.



**DON'T  
CONFORM  
TO THIS  
WORLD, BUT  
BE  
TRANSFORMED  
BY THE RENEWING  
OF YOUR MIND  
IN CHRIST JESUS.**



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*



### Christmas Carol Service

In the Church at 7.30p.m. this Sunday, with Cor an Spioraid Naoimh and the choir of Mount Mercy College. Come along to a feast of seasonal music. Heating will be on.

### First Friday

Friday week, 2nd January, will be the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Cork & Ross Pilgrimage will take place on 11/16 June. Details from Joe O'Reilly Pilgrimages, Blarney, Co. Cork, tel. 385700.

### Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

On Friday 2nd January from 10.30a.m. to 7.30p.m. The special intention will be families.

Please write your name in the book in the centre aisle of the church for your committed time. We offer a special word of thanks to Charlie and the Altar Society for their help every month. A very happy Christmas to you all.

### Ministers of the Eucharist

Please collect your new rotas, available at the altar rails.

### Prayers of the Faithful

Please collect your new rotas in the Sacristy.



## CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

### MASSES

#### **Christmas Eve**

9.00, 10.00  
6.15 p.m. Vigil Mass  
Midnight Mass at 12.00

#### **Christmas Day**

8.00, 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

#### **Friday 26th**

10.00 and 12 noon  
*Please note change of times*

#### **Saturday 27th**

9.00, 10.00, 6.15p.m.

#### **Thursday 1st January**

10.00 and 12 noon  
*Please note change of times*

### CONFESSIONS

#### **Saturday 20th**

12 - 1 p.m.  
Before and after Vigil Mass

#### **Monday 22nd**

Penitential Service at 7.30p.m.  
Visiting Priests

#### **Tuesday 23rd**

7.00p.m.

#### **Wednesday 24th**

11 - 1; 3 - 5; 7 - 9.

### **POOR CLARE MONASTERY**

#### **Christmas Eve :**

No Benediction  
Mass at Midnight

#### **Christmas Day:**

Masses: 8.00 and 10.00 a.m.  
Benediction 1.15 p.m.

#### **St. Stephen's Day to 1st January (incl.):**

Masses at 8.00 and 10.00 a.m.  
Benediction at 5.30 p.m.

### **Parish Church Mass Notice**

#### **Sunday 4th January**

9.00, 10.30, 12.15 p.m.

#### **Tuesday 6th January**

#### **Feast of the Epiphany**

#### **Holyday of Obligation**

9.00, 10.30, 12.15, 7.30 p.m.  
Vigil Mass: Monday 5th at  
6.15 p.m.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

088-519940