



The Baptism of the Lord

No. 534

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sunday 11th January 1998



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



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

January is traditionally a time for looking forward, for new beginnings and new resolutions. January 1998 brings us nearer to a new millennium. We look ahead with hope, and perhaps with a little fear also. We must never forget that we do not look ahead alone. Last week I was given something written by that great spiritual writer, Thomas Merton. I am including it because I believe that it expresses far better than I could sentiments that are very appropriate to this time of year.

The Road Ahead

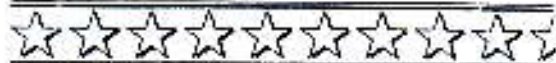
Heavenly Father,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this,

you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all our parishioners and all those who attend our church a very happy New Year, peace in your hearts and homes, and every blessing for the road ahead.



Glenn 740



Pray for these...



We pray for the late Michael Kenny of St. Clares Avenue, who died recently. Michael hadn't been well for the past number of years, and faithfully looked forward to Holy Communion on the first Friday of the month. Despite his ill-health he was a great conversationalist, and had a special interest in Irish political affairs. He was cared for lovingly by his wife Maura at home up to a few months before his death. To his wife and family we offer our sympathy and prayers.

We pray for the late Finbar (Fin) Buckley, The Crescent, Westgate Road, who died suddenly before Christmas. To all who attended the Sunday 9.00a.m. Mass, Fin was a devoted Minister of the Eucharist and distributed Holy Communion just hours before he died. He was a well-known rugby player with Highfield and then became an administrator within the Club. Whilst rugby was his first love, he was also a top class soccer player. Fin's faith, family and Highfield were the loves of his life. To all who knew him he was a gentle and kind man, and as a husband and father, "one couldn't ask for better", was how he was described. To Marjorie and family we offer our sympathy and prayers.

We pray for the late George Allen of Bendemeer Park, who died recently. An expert craftsman, over the years he sharpened many a saw in his premises at the bottom of Barrack Street. George was one of the first residents of Bendemeer Park. He was a well-known stamp collector, and in later years enjoyed painting pictures. To his wife Eileen, and family, we offer our prayers.



HEAVEN
AND EARTH SHALL
PASS AWAY, BUT
MY WORDS SHALL
NOT PASS AWAY.

SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to ANNE COPPLESTONE, The Ridgeway, Model Farm Road, on the death of her father.

To NOREEN O'SULLIVAN, 3 Bishops court Lawn, on the death of her sister.

To MICHAEL MURPHY, College Road, on the death of his father.

To MICHAEL LONG, Bishops court Hill, on the death of his sister.

To DENIS O'MULLANE, Orchard Road, on the death of his mother.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD

1997 came to an end with quite a mix of media news, some of it good, a lot of it worrying.

It has to be good news for our parish and for the diocese that we have a bishop once again. Thanks be to God. In wishing Dr. John Buckley every blessing on his work in the years ahead, he himself admits to a feeling of apprehension at the enormity of that task. No doubt the Holy Spirit will be with him in all that he undertakes and will see to it that the shoulders are equal to the burden.

Christmas 1997 was a dramatic one with the media portraying the ravages of 'Hurricane Noelle'. Many were without power, forced to do without heat, without water too. Some had to miss out on the traditional Christmas dinner. And yet, there was a plus side to all of this. I listened to a priest who spoke about his experience of midnight Mass by candlelight. After weeks of excesses of all kinds, it brought everything back to basics, he claimed.

One of the big tragedies of the season surely must be the growing gulf between the 'haves' (who seem to have more and more) and the 'have nots'. It seems particularly obscene that, while this state exists, £20 million can

be promised for a single stadium and T.Ds. seek a £10,000 p.a. rise in salary.

Perhaps 1998 will bring happier stories in the media? Perhaps society in 1998 might become more caring? When it comes down to it, society means you, dear reader, and it means me! Happy New Year to all readers of Luke.



Christmas Crossword & Quiz

We thank all the people who have sent in their entries for the various competitions and crossword in the Christmas edition of the Bulletin. Please note that the closing date for the crossword is the 11th January, so drop in your entries today!

The winner of the Teenager Quiz is Miriam Cashell, Copper Beeches, Laburnum Park, and a gift voucher will be sent out shortly.



Pastoral Council

Reminder of meeting in C.P. Centre on Monday 12th January at 8.10p.m.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit Melbourn Court and Rossbrook during the week.

Day of Prayer and Reflection

On Sunday 18th January at St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore, from 10.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. including Mass. Tel. 502520 for further information.

Adoration for Peace

Continues each Wednesday in the Poor Clare Chapel. All welcome.



Guided Meditations

Using the tapes of Fr. John Main, O.S.B. will be held on Wednesday evenings at 8.00p.m. in Room 10, SMA Centre, commencing 14th January. For more information please contact Sr. Vera Harrison at 346283. Sessions are free of charge.

Low Impact Exercises

To assist in preventing osteoporosis and other ailments will commence each Tuesday (3.00-4.00pm) and Thursday (3.00pm) in Room 11 at SMA Centre. Cost £20 for 10 sessions. Classes conducted by Sr. Vera Harrison, RSM, A.D.A. Recreation Studies. Contact 346283.

Bulletins to the Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end. Anyone who is not in the parish may get a bulletin in the Sacristy.

Blood Donations Required

At SMA Centre on Thursday 15th January from 5.30 to 8.30p.m.



Order of Malta

Are recruiting Cadet members for 1998. If you are interested and between the age of 10 and 16, and would like to learn first-aid on a weekly base, come along to Wilton Park House on Sunday 18th January at 11.30a.m. or phone 342275.



Can You Help?

Two snow white kittens have strayed from home. If you know of their whereabouts please phone 545220.

Readings for Sunday 18 January

Is.62:1-5. Ps.95. 1Cor.12:4-11. Jn.2:1-11.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940