

Sunday 22nd November 1998



No. 570

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Christ, Universal King



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

NOVEMBER is a dark, dreary month. Many people say they feel gloomy and depressed. I don't believe that this depression comes from lack of faith, but from loneliness. We miss the presence of those who were near and dear to us and who have gone to God.

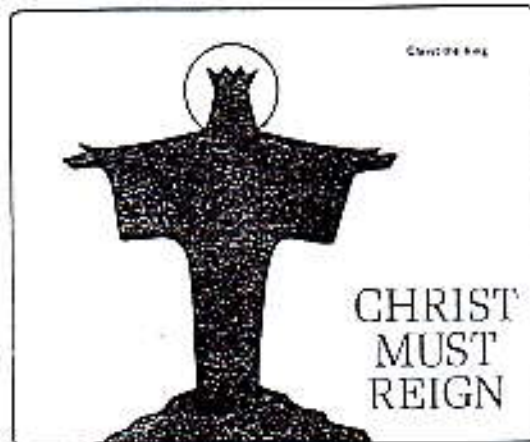
I was given a small book of poetry, "Candle in the Dark", written by Doreen O'Donovan. The poems about everyday things are deeply spiritual. Doreen composed one while she was cleaning out the grate to light a fire. Written by a woman, it is just as applicable to men. It reminds us of the many simple things we all do for others. These, Our Lord and King says, He will take as done to Himself. The poem below lifted my spirits. I hope it does the same for you.

My praying hands

*They are old and wrinkled now my Lord,
the fingers gnarled and bent.
But they have worked for you my Lord
through all the years I've spent
as wife, mother, housewife,
working from morn till night.
At the end of the day*

*I've joined them in prayer,
in your loving, watchful sight.*

*They have soothed the fretful baby
They have cooled the fevered brow,
They have patched the knees and
dried the tears, and sorted out the rows.
Time slips through my fingers now
as swift as silver sands.
Lord, take as a gift, the work of my life
from these, my praying hands.*



Divided nations, partitioned countries, separated peoples are nothing new to human history. Violence has been tried as a solution and found wanting, not least in our own little island. Sometimes people come together in trust to bridge the divisions. On this Sunday, we are reminded of one such healing reunion. The Twelve tribes of the Jews had split ten against two, Israel against Juda. All the bitterness

of a long family feud was there. For years, there was no yielding. Unexpectedly, under David, the man of God, peace was restored.

Our lands need peace on every front. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, has given the standards, the values, the guidelines by which that peace must be built. Lasting peace must be founded as Christ's kingdom. As we honour Christ our King, we ask for the miracle of reconciliation in our land, for the wisdom, courage and self-sacrifice, each of us needs to play our part in peacemaking now.

OUR SYMPATHIES

We offer our sincere sympathy to **FRANKIE O'BRIEN**, Victoria Village, on the death of his mother.

To **PAT DOYLE**, Wilton Road, on the death of his mother.



Congratulations to **Saorlaith Ní Bhroin** of 3 Woodlawn, Model Farm Road, who has been selected to play with the Irish U-15 Girls Basketball squad. Saorlaith first took up basketball in September 1997.



Memorial

ISANDS Memorial Service

The 10th Annual Isands (Irish Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) Memorial Service will be held on this Sunday, 22nd November, at 3 p.m.

This ecumenical service is held each year at the ISANDS Memorial Stone in St. Finbarr's Cemetery on Glasheen Road, and is for families and friends who have experienced the death of a baby - from miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth or death in infancy. It gives an opportunity to come together in recognition of shared bereavement and to offer one another support.

This year the ISANDS Memorial Quilt which commemorates the short lives of over 600 Irish babies will be displayed in the Sacred Heart Church on Western Road from Sunday, 22nd November to Sunday, 29th November.

For further information about the Memorial Service or the Quilt please phone ISANDS at 961475 or 343851.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

On Sunday 18th October Mount Mercy Transition Year students presented "Vogue '98 Fashion Show". The money raised went to the Omagh Disaster Fund and the Bessboro Fund. Four students, their teacher and Cllr. Ann Gormley, travelled to Cork to take part. The Minister for Education formally welcomed the



six visitors to Cork during the annual Achievements Awards ceremony at the school, and later in the Lord Mayor's Chambers in the City Hall they were awarded a formal reception. The Mount Mercy girls and teachers made the visitors very welcome and a weekend of fun was organised for them during their brief stay in Cork.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah McCarthy, Glasheen Park, a second year student, who won first prize in the Bishopstown Credit Union Art Competition.

To Karen Collins, 2nd year, who appeared in the recent TV adaptation of "Falling for a Dancer".

To hockey players Valerie Fenton, Louise O'Sullivan and Cathy Kennefick for securing a place in the U-18 Munster squad, and to Jackie Linnane and Joanne O'Callaghan in Munster's U-16 squad.

COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

A TIME FOR CALM AND REASONED DEBATE

While there was an expectation that abortion would become an issue in the recent bye-election, very little debate resulted. As the media portrayed it, it was a fairly lack-lustre campaign, except for the unfortunate playing of the Sinead Behan tape on radio.

Comparing the bye-election campaign with the recent U.S.

campaign and election, one wonders if there isn't a connection. It would appear that the Republicans' efforts to have President Clinton impeached have back-fired on them. Perhaps the American public are sick to death of the Clinton/Lewinsky affair and want to move on.

Is it possible that the Irish people have tired of the efforts of so many dedicated people to turn back the clock and have abortion totally and unequivocally banned? On radio during the week, we heard the sickening statistics in all their starkness: fifteen women a day making the journey to the U.K. for an abortion, 5,000 annually. These figures, we were assured, were conservative estimates. No one knows the real figure.

What worries me is the intensity of the debate - on both sides. Life is sacred, all life. Yet, what began in the U.S. as a peaceful method of protesting outside abortion clinics has now resulted in seven deaths of doctors who have carried out abortions. Are their lives any less sacred than those of the infants they have aborted? The latest victim, Dr. Barnett Slepian, was cut down by a sniper's bullet. Hardly the act of someone who values human life, all human life. Eighty-six percent of Americans polled believed incidents like these harm the anti-abortion cause. I believe some of the strident rhetoric used here at home, as well as some of the angry confrontations, has the same effect. It is a time for calm and reasoned dialogue. Above all, it is a time for prayer.



NOTICE BOARD

Liturgy Group Meeting

A meeting of the Liturgy Group will take place on Monday evening 23rd November at 8.10 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

One Bread, One Body

Copies of the summary pamphlet are available free of charge at each church door.

St. Anne's Adoption Society

The Annual Collection takes place this weekend. There are boxes for your donations in each porch of the church.

A Programme for Separated Parents

A programme for parents who are about to or who have separated will be held at the Cork and Ross Family Centre, 34 Paul Street, Cork, on Wednesday, 2nd December at 6.15 p.m. Early booking is advisable as there are only a few places available. For booking or further information please ring 275678.

Christmas Flower Demonstration

The Lough Flower & Garden Club will host a Gala Christmas Demonstration by Mary Coleman (Flower Arranger of the Year) on Tuesday, 24th November at S.M. A. Wilton. Admission: £4. Proceeds to National Council for the Blind of Ireland.

St. Finbarr's National Hurling & Football Club

The Annual Mass for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of St. Finbarr's Club will be celebrated at the Club on Monday, November 23rd at 8.00 p.m. All are welcome.

Do You Have Brittle Bones?

Osteoporosis can begin at any age. Detection and prevention is simple, painless and inexpensive. Have your bone density checked by ultrasound at SMA Parish Centre on Wednesday 25th November, cost £30. For appointment please phone 01-2301405.



Established 1857

Farranferris Bazaar

will be held on Sunday, 29th November from 2 to 6 p.m. Items for the bazaar would be greatly appreciated and can be handed in to the college office.

Leaving Cert. Revision Course

in Honours Physics and Applied Maths will be in St. Finbarr's College, Farranferris, from Monday 28th December to Friday 1st January. For more information please contact the Secretary (telephone: 303015) during office hours.

Readings for Sunday 29 November.

Is. 2:1-5. Ps. 121.
Rom. 13:11-14. Matt.24:37-24.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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