

Sunday 29th November 1998



Ballineaspais Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Finbarr writes

FOR SOMEONE who loves one long party the coming weeks must be great, other people find the Christmas period a time of loneliness and expense. Christians should find this time of year joyful, a season of good will. What is your experience?

My own experience has been one of joy and happiness from my childhood to the present day. That good experience can be attributed to the efforts of my parents, grandparents and family to make it a time of pleasant memories, from the excitement of Santa Claus to the wonderment of seeing the Infant Jesus in the crib on Christmas morning. Before that was the excitement of gifts, but everything seemed to change after going to early Mass, a sense that this is what we had been preparing for, and an effort to bring the joy of the birth of Jesus to all of our lives.

As an adult I have become much more aware that the celebration of Christmas Day can be 'null and void', a party with the honoured guest absent, if I don't prepare myself spiritually to welcome the birth of Jesus and all it means into my life. Advent gives us that opportunity to prepare ourselves for this happy event.

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Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Dennehy's Cross parish will have a group travelling to Lourdes with the Cork & Ross Diocesan pilgrimage on 11-16th June 1999. Further details on posters in church noticeboards. Booking forms available in C.P. Centre and Sacristy. Please note that only one booking form to be used if you are sharing hotel room - both names on one form.

Deceased Parishioners

A reminder that Mass will be celebrated on this Monday, 30th, at 7.30 pm. for parishioners who died during the year. Members of each family are invited to attend.

Here's **NEWS**

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Our Second Year students were very honoured to be asked to contribute to a C.D. which is being produced to mark the 25th anniversary of church music in our parish church. The girls sang "Carol of the Instruments" and were accompanied beautifully by the school orchestral group. They also sang with the Senior Church Choir in a lovely rendition of "Silent Night". We look forward eagerly to the production of the C.D. - hopefully early in December.

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Caretaker's House,
Waterworks,
Lee Road

Dear Editor,

In last Sunday's comment piece, the matter of abortion was discussed. I feel that Luke omitted to mention some important facts.

- a) That in every case, abortion means the mutilation and death of a live baby.
- b) That on account of their involvement in what has happened, women become emotionally distraught or hardened by the experience.
- c) That an I.M.S. opinion poll taken in May this year shows that 70% of the people support the holding of a clear-cut referendum on the issue, and 71% oppose the legalization of abortion in any circumstances.
- d) That pro-life organisations such as CURA, LIFE, etc. on an ongoing basis offer accommodation, medical, befriending, etc. support to thousands of women experiencing difficulties, and at no charge.
- e) That on the last Friday of every month, in the Poor Clare Chapel on College Road at 7.30 pm. Mass, prayers are said for all who have been affected by the abortion industry.

Yours,
Gearoid Duffy

Slane,
Endsleigh,
Douglas Road

Dear Editor,

On reading Ballineaspaig Bulletin 22/11/98, I was very disturbed by the Media Comment by Luke. Since there was very little, if any, debate on abortion in the recent bye-election, I wondered why he brought up the subject and associated the immoral behaviour of some well-known American personalities with the behaviour of the Pro-Life people in Ireland. Luke should state if he is one of the Irish people who is tired of the Pro-Life movement. He then brings on the usual abortion statistics put forward regularly by the pro-abortion lobby. There seems to be a new philosophy emerging in Ireland, i.e., the greater the number of people who do wrong the more it becomes right! He implies that Pro-Life movement in the U.S. condones the actions of the gunmen. He can be assured that they are a large part of the 86% who condemn such behaviour. He refers to the strident rhetoric and angry confrontations in Ireland. The only people I know who would be involved in these situations are Youth Defence. These are a group of dedicated young people who are frustrated by the example and behaviour of their seniors, the gardai and the national media. They don't need further condemnation from a Catholic publication. At no time in his comment has Luke ever condoned the Pro-Life movement.

Yours sincerely,
Joe Sorensen



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

A THEOLOGY OF HOPE

We in the Church have become very critical of the media, with justification most of the time. The letters page of The Examiner would be a typical example. One of the targets of this criticism is the columnist, T.P. O'Mahony. But every so often the same T.P. writes a column of such sensitivity that I sometimes wonder if I am not being too hard on the man!

He covered the recent visit to Cork of Professor Jurgen Moltmann, the German Protestant theologian who gave two lectures at U.C.C. I attended the second lecture where he kept a large audience enthralled for a full hour, challenging those present to value time rather than attempting to fill every possible moment of every day in a frenetic race through life.

Known for his theology of hope Jurgen Moltmann claimed that despite two world wars - he fought in the second one - "it was still possible to have faith in a benevolent God". Yet, he suggested that one of the greatest challenges facing young people today was their lack of spiritual values. "They are not challenged in terms of who they are or in terms of what life is all about."

Professor Moltmann regrets the break-down of the extended family, where each family member 'looked out' for the other. Now, in many of the larger German cities, "more than half of all

households are single households." Speaking of freedom, he pointed out that while we can all participate in the 'virtual world' provided by TV and the Internet, people cannot "participate in determining things", making our freedom somewhat sterile. And, just as the living family as we knew it is in the process of breaking down, even in death families remain parted through distance or cremation. "Since the family name counted for nothing in life, why should it now bind the children to the graves of the dead?"

Advocating a slowing down of living, Jurgen Moltmann urged his audience to "linger in the moment and open ourselves up to the intensive experience of life. We experience eternity", he said, "in the moment that is lived utterly and completely."



Rest In Peace

Mary Keane, Bishopstown Avenue West, died at a comparatively early age in the Bon Secours Hospital on 15th November. Mary left home in her teens to take up a position in the Civil Service in Dublin. Her talents and ability quickly came to the fore, and she attained a highly responsible position in Customs & Excise. Her colleagues in Dublin proved really loyal friends by their weekly visits to Mary during her illness. We extend our sympathy to her brother Patrick, sister Anne, uncle, aunt, nieces, relatives and colleagues. May she rest in peace.



First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

7.30 Evening Mass

Will be discontinued in December, except for First Friday, 4th December.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Takes place next Friday from 10.30 am. to 7.30 pm.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Meeting next Thursday at 8.00 pm. in C.P. Centre.



Annual Christmas Dinner

The Bishopstown Social Services Annual Dinner for senior citizens and friends will take place on Sunday 13th December at 6.00 pm. in Bishopstown G.A.A. Pavilion. Tickets £5 and transport available if required. Please contact: Nora Fitzpatrick 546358, Brid Hartnett 544693 or Michael Haydon 541638. We wish to thank our many sponsors and supporters of this event.

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 2nd December in Dennehy's Lounge Bar, 10.30 - 12 noon. Proceeds in aid of Irish Kidney Association.

COPE Foundation

The annual collection will take place next week-end 5/6th December.

Mass and Sacrament of the Sick

Will be celebrated on Saturday 5th December at 3.00 pm. in the Crypt. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass. We would request Contact people to ensure that transport is available where necessary.

As always, the organisers are dependent on the great response from Contact people and parishioners who supply sandwiches and cakes to ensure that those who attend the Mass enjoy the social aspect afterwards.

Care of Older People

The Southern Health Board is organising a Listening Day on this Sunday 29th at 3.00 pm. in the Metropole, Imperial, Maryborough House Hotel and Lough Community Centre. The purpose of the day is to listen to the views and opinions of the people of Cork on the future development of services for older people. The public are invited to attend.

Foster Carers Needed

For young people of 12 years and over, particularly people whose children are in their teens or older. Allowance paid and preparation course with on-going support provided. Further information from Frank Murphy, Southern Health Board, tel. 312848.

Bishopstown Community Association

Members meeting will be held at Wilton Park House on Tuesday 1st December at 8.00 pm. All welcome.

Readings for Sunday 6 December

Is.11:1-10. Ps. 71. Rom.15:4-9 Mt. 3:1-12.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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