



Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 1998

# Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent



No. 574

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNHY'S CROSS, DORK



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Sr. Ursula writes*

THIS TIME next year we will be in the throes of millennium madness. Tickets will have been bought for seats in Concord to hurtle through time zones on December 31st. Arrangements will also have been made to travel on trains to rendezvous at the centre of the channel tunnel at midnight on New Year's Eve. People are even planning to go into the desert to meet aliens!! Re ra agus maille buaille everywhere. Why?

In the relative calmness of Christmas '98? WHY is a question we have to seriously ask ourselves. The answer will make very clear to us our core values and attitudes. As Christians we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus loved to celebrate. We have many Gospel stories to prove this. Pope John Paul tells us that in celebrating the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 we have to look to Christ. He is the heart of the church, the reason for her existence. In Mt.7:2 Jesus gave us his Golden Rule: Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

In the Old Testament we read a

lovely story. Saul persecuted David and tried to kill him. At Saul's death David was anointed King in Saul's place. In 2 Sam. 19:3 we read that David asked "Is there no one still left of Saul's family for me to show him God's kindness?" David, by the way, is mentioned in all three of today's Mass readings.

Is there someone to whom each one of us needs to show God's kindness this Christmas or in the year to come? As John Hume said, "You don't need to make peace with your friends." I know I have to ask myself am I treating others as I would like them to treat me? Am I willing to forgive as I would like to be forgiven? I may not always find it easy to keep the Golden Rule, but if I am to call myself Christian I know that I have to be prepared to try.

## *Parish Activities*

### PARISH CALENDAR 1999

The Pastoral Council, with the co-operation of the Area Contact persons, is arranging to have the Parish Calendar delivered to each home in the parish. It brings not only detailed information about the parish, but also our best wishes for a blessed Christmas and grace-filled New Year.

Pastoral Council News.

The 1999 calendars have arrived. It is hoped to give each household a little gift of one through the Contact People.

'One Bread, One Body' is such an important document that feedback on its impact is desired. Everyone should feel free to discuss it with members of the Council and together we will reflect on it.

Handbells were discussed. Many of us have not heard them before but those who have are sufficiently enthusiastic to encourage our full support. Adrian Gebruers, Carillonneur of Cobh Cathedral has been in consultation with those interested. Their acquisition will hopefully be by sponsorship. Many people in the parish could be trained to ring them and everyone could enjoy listening.

A summary was made of the work done by the various groups within the parish and THANKS are extended to all, especially to the new Prayers of the Faithful readers.

It is hoped to have our Parish Social in early February. More details later. We wish everybody a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Weekly Collection Envelopes**

These envelopes will be available in the Church in early January for those who wish to use them.

Responsibility is for those who are free enough to choose and daring enough to answer the call of the small voice of the conscience that says:

"You are free to choose the Good"

**Ideal Christmas Gift**

The choir have recorded a mixture of Christmas music and popular hymns which is available in both C.D. and Tape. Proceeds of sales will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Both C.D. (£9.50) and Tape (£7.00) will be available in Parish Office, Sacristy, McCarthy's Shop, Bishopstown Post Office and Pro Musica.

**Reconciliation Service**

At Curraheen Church on Wednesday 23rd at 8.00 p.m.

**Edel House**

The annual collection will take place this week-end. Edel House is a shelter for homeless girls, women and children.

**Art Show**

By the third class students of St. Catherine's N.S. can be seen in the showrooms of Dennehy's Cross Garage who sponsored a recent competition.

**Lost**

Ladies watch, fawn strap, in Wilton Road area. If found please contact 543219.

**Refuse Collections**

The following notice has been received from Cork Corporation. Normal collection dates changed as follows:

Mon. 21st to Sat. 19th.  
Tues. 22nd to Mon. 21st.  
Wed. 23rd to Tues. 22nd.  
Thurs. 24th to Wed. 23rd.  
Fri. 25th to Thurs. 24th.  
Mon. 28th no change.  
Tues. 29th no change.  
Wed. 30th no change.  
Thurs. 31st no change.  
Fri. 1st to Sat. 2nd.



# COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

## WHO OWNS THE CELTIC TIGER?

Remember the catchphrase during the swinging sixties? We've never had it so good? Compared to the sixties, the closing years of the millennium are almost beyond comprehension - provided that you're in that elite grouping that benefits from the Celtic Tiger. And if you're not?

On our TV screens and in our newspapers and magazines, one would have to be forgiven for believing that we all share in this booming economy. But side by side with all this success, we look at the appeals from the St. Vincent de Paul Society and others and we know that all is not well in our society. During the month of November, we witnessed the "Share the Wealth" rally in Dublin, again pointing the finger at the inequities in our land.

Fr. Bernard Cotter, editor of Intercom Magazine, faced the dilemma in the December issue when he felt he had to decide between the soft option of putting a beautiful stained glass nativity scene on the cover or going for another family scene that might not be considered politically correct. He choose the latter, a smiling family of young travellers in front of their caravan with the washing line strung out between the bushes behind. A small but significant acknowledgement of those in the Christian family,

the traveller, the homeless, the migrant, whose link with the Celtic Tiger is tenuous and very fragile.

Fr. Bernard makes the point that as he had to compromise on the matter of the Intercom cover, so we might feel uncomfortable in our compromises as we approach the Feast of Christmas.



We offer our sincere sympathy to CATHERINE O'BRIEN, Leedale, Model Farm Road, on the death of her father.

To NANCY KELLEHER, Wilton Road, on the death of her sister.



Dr. Maura O'Driscoll, The Orchards, Farranlea Park, died on December 10th after a short illness. Maura gave a life time of service to hospital care of the sick as an anaesthetist, especially in the Orthopaedic Hospital and in St. Finbarr's Hospital where she died. We extend our deepest sympathy to her sisters Mrs. Jos. O'Mahony, Mrs. Eileen Quinlan, Mrs. Kay Donaghy, to her nieces and nephews, extended family and a wide circle of friends.



*✂ Please cut out and keep for reference*

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CHURCH SERVICES

### MASSES

#### **Christmas Eve**

9.00, 10.00

6.15 pm. Vigil Mass

Midnight Mass at 12.00

#### **Christmas Day**

8.00, 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 pm.

#### **Saturday 26th**

10.00 and 12 noon

Vigil Mass at 6.15 pm.

#### **Sunday 27th**

9.00, 10.30, 12.15 p.m.

#### **Monday 28th to Saturday 2nd**

10.00 a.m.

#### **Sunday 3rd January**

Saturday Vigil Mass 6.15 p.m.

Sunday 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 pm.

#### **Wednesday 6th January**

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

##### **Holyday of Obligation** <sup>7.30</sup>

Tuesday Vigil Mass ~~6.15~~ pm.

Wednesday 9.00, 10.30, 12.15,  
and 7.30 p.m.

### CONFESSIONS

#### **Saturday 19th**

All day - 10.30 am. to 7.30 pm.

#### **Monday 21st**

Penitential Service at 7.30 pm.

Visiting Priests

#### **Thursday 24th Christmas Eve**

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

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#### **Poor Clare Monastery**

#### **Christmas Eve:**

No rosary at 5.30 p.m.

Mass at Midnight.

#### **Christmas Day:**

Masses: 8.00 and 10.00 a.m.

No Rosary. Chapel open for

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament until 6.00 p.m.

#### **Carol Service**

Our Church Choir will hold a Candlelight Service this Sunday at 7.30 p.m. Reception in Crypt afterwards to celebrate their new recording "Cantemus". All very welcome.

#### **Readings for Sunday 27 December**

Sir. 3:3-7, 14-17. (2-6, 12-14).

Ps. 127. Col. 3:12-21.

Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23.

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**