



Sunday 10th January 1999

No. 578

Ballineaspig Bulletin

The Baptism of the Lord



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
The Dean writes

In appreciation of 'LUKE' - who to-day presents his final article for our Parish Bulletin.

Twelve years have passed since 'Luke' began his weekly contributions to our Bulletin at the behest of Fr. Bernard Cotter. His remit was to take points of current interest in the media and hold them up to scrutiny in the light of Gospel values.

Sometimes his evaluation failed to meet with universal approval. He was the first to acknowledge this - and always gave readers the right of reply - which was something he valued and respected. But he never set out to offend the sensibilities of anybody. He gave an honest appraisal of questions, as he saw them, and in doing so not only challenged secular values, but challenged us too to examine our own position.

At times his orthodoxy was questioned. I venture to state that in this matter he was unwittingly misinterpreted. His loyalty to Christ and his Church is unwavering. He questioned when some practices were presented as matters of Faith -

when in fact they were not.

'Luke' is not beholden to any of us. He gave his time and his talents freely, and received no reward, as least not from us.

Personally I feel we owe him a deep debt of gratitude, and I am happy to have the privilege to express this.

Denis O'Keefe



CHRISTMAS THANKS

Fr. Finbarr, Dean Denis and Sr. Ursula join me in thanking everybody who joined in our Christmas prayers and celebrations. Many helped in special ways with great talent and dedication, but everybody's participation was encouraging and deeply appreciated. The "Home Coming" Reconciliations made the Christmas Eucharist very rewarding. Thank you. Thank you also for your continued generosity in the Christmas Day collection.

Fr. Tom Clancy

Requiescat
in Pace



We pray for the late Marjery Walsh, Bendemeer Park, who died recently. Despite her failing health during the past few years, she was determined to attend daily Mass. Marjery was a woman who always greeted you with a warm smile or wave as she travelled in the car. If you called to her home you were guaranteed a warm and genuine welcome. To her husband David and family we offer our prayers and sympathy.

We pray for the late Michael Walsh, Bendemeer Park. Like his late sister-in-law Marjery, Michael was faithful in attendance at daily Mass. His health had been failing during the past two years. A kind, gentle man, Michael was a member of the Waterfall Harrier Club. We thank him for his sense of duty as a collector at the Sunday 9.00 a.m. Mass. To Gladys and family we offer our prayers and sympathy.



Pray for these...



Edmond Murphy (Ned - as he was better known to his friends) retired from farming in his native Aghabullogue about ten years ago. Later he, and his wife Bridie, moved in to Laburnum Park and from the start took an active part in Parish life. Ned was a sincere and gentle person who endeared himself to friends and neighbours alike. His passing on 29th December was unexpected, but quiet and without fuss. We extend the sincere sympathy of our community to his wife Bridie, his brothers, sister, nieces and nephews, and all who miss him.



We offer our sincere sympathy to MRS. RITA O'HERLIHY, Wilton Gardens, on the death of her brother. To MRS. CASSIE CROSS, Wilton Gardens, on the death of her brother. To MR. TOM LISTON, 78 Wilton Road, on the death of his sister. To the Community in St. Joseph's Convent, on the death of Sister Regis Fitzgerald.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

We read in Ecclesiastes: "There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven ... even ... a time for keeping silent." For a number of reasons, I believe it is time for Luke to fold his tent and to move on.

For the past ten or twelve years - nobody is quite sure! - Luke has contributed a weekly column to the Ballineaspig Bulletin. Although it may sometimes have been lost sight of by readers, my brief was to reflect (from a Catholic Christian viewpoint) on what was seen or heard or printed in the media. I was encouraged to make Media Comment a thought-provoking and challenging column, even to be occasionally controversial. I have tried to live up to this challenge, although from time to time I have irked some of our bulletin readers. I regret that the opportunity to debate issues was sometimes overlooked. Instead, the softer option of indulging in personal abuse was pursued. So be it.

I was weaned on a fearsome Christianity which was overly concerned with a wrathful God and a religion which was hide-bound by rules and regulations. I have journeyed, with others, towards a Faith based on the Good News of a loving God who welcomes us to enlist in His Kingdom. I have tried, however inadequately, to love this God and to see Christ in the neighbour. There is a freedom here which replaces

joyless fear with hope-filled celebration. Perhaps this troubles some who would prefer the old certainties?

Now, with my editor's indulgence (I am well over my 180 words!), I want to thank a number of people: I am grateful to successive parish teams for their continuing support, but most especially I want to thank our Dean for his endless trust, support and affirmation; my thanks to Anne O'Riordan, our parish secretary, for her unstinting and unflinching courtesy; I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the bulletin editorial team for years of loyalty; my appreciation, too, to all who helped with the bulletin - and there are many; finally I want to thank you, the reader, whether you agreed with Luke or not, for sharing Media Comment with me over the years. I will miss the weekly challenge.

May I end, as I should, with a media quote? Mary Robinson, on her installation as Chancellor of the University of Dublin, suggested that among the lasting values that a university should uphold were "a passion for the truth, and the freedom to express the ideas which emerge from the restless questioning surge of the human intellect."

I would suggest that those ideals might become the maxim for the Catholic Church as we approach the new millennium. I would go so far as to include the adjective 'fearless'.

I wish all readers of Luke and of the Ballineaspig Bulletin a happy and fulfilling new year. Perhaps we might pray for one another? Shalom!



19  99

PARISH CALENDAR

By now most homes in the parish will have received our parish calendar. The four colourful illustrations depict the four church themes for 1999 in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2000:

1. Year of God the Father
2. Interreligion dialogue
3. Justice, Peace and Charity
4. Reconciliation

An explanation of each theme will be given in the bulletin today and for the next three bulletins.

Year of God the Father

Our drawing shows the hand of God the Father at the heart of creation and all of humanity. He is the beginning and the end the alpha and omega. The whole of Christian life is like a great journey to the Father's home. This journey takes place in the heart of each person and extends from the believing community to the whole of humanity.



reminder

Pastoral Council

Meeting Monday 11th at 8.15 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

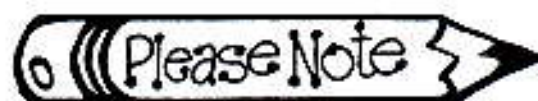
Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end.



Christmas Bulletin

We take this opportunity to remind all parishioners that the competitions, quizzes and crossword entries must be dropped into the C.P. Centre by midnight tonight, Sunday January 10th. For those of you who have already submitted entries, the answers and winners will be listed in next weeks bulletin.



Readings for Sunday 17 January

Is.49:3,5-6. Ps.39. Cor.1:1-3.
Jn.1:29-34.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940