

Sunday 7th November 1999



No. 609

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENBY'S CROSS, CORK



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

VERY FEW PEOPLE voted in the recent by-election. For an increasing number of people, especially young adults, politics is no longer relevant in their lives. They do not see their participation as making any difference. The scandals anger them. So they opt out. Having failed to put new life into old structures, the party faithful may write off the young, leaving a crippling vacuum in society.

We, the church, the people of God, face a somewhat similar situation. A growing number of young adults are not convinced of the relevance of God and religious practice in their busy, varied, and often pressurised, lives. Some choose career success, entertainment or 'the good life' rather than service to the community, search for God and commitment to prayer. So they opt out or drift out of the believing, worshipping and serving community that we call parish. Their growing absence is a haemorrhage of the life blood of the church.

The committed remain faithful to traditional practices, but mere fidelity is not enough. The call is to recognise the spirit of God living and working in us and through us as believers as powerfully as He has always done. The temptation is to grow discouraged and to leave a vacuum where our creative response would make an enriching difference. The challenge is to continuously recreate a community where we come together in prayer, in reflection, in praise, in hope and in joy to deepen our appreciation of all God's gifts to us through one another; where the young will sense they belong and where their presence will enrich us all through dedicated creative service.

Our Jubilee Triduum (November 22nd to 24th) with its Sunday of Reconciliation (November 28th) is an occasion to breathe a new spirit into our own faith and to nurture our shared worship and service. Plan to be there and to bring another. Pray God's blessing upon us all.

Tom Blaney

Rest In Peace

Donald MacDonald, Model Farm Road, had been in failing health for the past few years, yet his death on 26th October was quite unexpected. Donald had worked in Maynooth College and U.C.C. prior to his retirement. A gentle, pleasant and refined man, he was exemplary in his commitment to his Lord, and to his dear wife Rosemary and his family, Denis, Patrick and Dorothy, to whom we extend our very sincere sympathy. His Requiem Mass was celebrated by his nephew Fr. Criostoir MacDonald, C.C. the Cathedral, in the presence of a large congregation of relatives and friends. May he rest in peace.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to TERRY O'DONOGHUE, Laburnum Lawn, on the death of her sister.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following parishioners whose weddings took place during the last two months:

MICHAEL CONOR AHERN, 3 Kenley Crescent, who married Caroline Whelan-Curtin, Middleton.

MARY CATHERINE MEADE, 111 Leesdale, who married Joseph McElhinney, Newbridge.

CONOR O'SULLIVAN, 19 Bishopscourt Road, who married Hazel O'Leary, The Lough.

COLM LEHANE, Wilton Gardens, who married Louise Goodwin, Shropshire, England.

EDEL KEARNEY, 3 Leesdale, who married Michael O'Callaghan, Templeacre Avenue.

JOHN MARTIN MURPHY, 77 Wilton Gardens, who married Kathleen Twohig, Old Youghal Road.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Our first Confirmation ceremony in the new millennium will be on April 5th. As a first step in the preparation for that event, the girls of the 6th class at St. Catherine's, together with their families, will join us at 10.30 a.m. Mass on Sunday next. After the gospel, they will commit themselves formally to prepare for the new coming of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation itself.

It will also be an occasion for the parish to be united in prayer and best wishes for these young people at a very crucial stage in their human and faith development.

May the Lord bless us all.



18.7 Confirmation
The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit
(2 Cor 1:22)



PASTORAL LETTER

of the

Catholic Bishops

During the week, the Catholic Bishops launched a wide-ranging pastoral letter entitled "Prosperity with a Purpose: Christian Faith and Values in a Time of Rapid Economic Growth". The Bishops stress that the concept of the common good of the entire community should guide us in deciding communal and personal priorities.

"The great jubilee (of Jesus' birth) will be properly celebrated, not by the construction of grandiose public works, or in lavish public and private entertainments, but by practical expression to the radical equality that God has established between all human beings", the document says.

It states that the concept of the common good has a pivotal place in Catholic social teaching. "The common good is not automatically served by market forces, without at all denying their positive role.

New energy and inventiveness are needed to find measures that deliver what the common good demands, where markets plainly do not."

Referring to pressures on families, the pastoral says: "In place of discriminatory arguments that 'the mother's place is in the home', the fairer argument is that 'each parent has a place in the home'." The pastoral urges a series of measures to support either parent with children working full or part-time in the home.

The pastoral also urges more help and social support for drug addicts and their families, members of the Traveller community, small landholders in rural Ireland, people with disabilities, prisoners, emigrants who may wish to return, refugees and immigrants.

It points out that by the standards of other small prosperous European states, Ireland has low overall taxation.

November



*Lord, this is the people that
longs to see your face.*



CONTACT PERSONS

Meeting

Monday 8.00 p.m.

Contact persons from each area of the parish are earnestly invited to a meeting with the Pastoral Council on Monday next, November 8th at 8.00 p.m. in the Crypt.

Pastoral Council

Meeting will take place after the Contact meeting on Monday 8th November in the Crypt.

Retreat

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society is holding a Retreat at Ennismore on Sunday 5th December, 9.30-5.30, concluding with concelebrated Mass. £14 - all meals included. Please contact Jackie O'Herlihy at 541144 between 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. or leave your name in C.P. Centre.

Treatment of Addictions

A public talk will be given by Mr. Michael Devine, Tabor Lodge, on Wed. 10th November at 8 p.m. sharp at Penrose Wharf Call Centre. Free admission, places limited to 30 - booking advisable. Contact 551433/4.

Irish Heart Foundation

There will be a walk on Sunday 7th November at 2.00 p.m. on the Lee Fields opposite the County Hall. You can walk for as little as ten minutes or do the complete walk which takes an hour and a half.

Sale of Work

In aid of O.L.A. Missions will be held at Ardfoyle Convent, Ballintemple (No. 2 bus) from 11.00-5.30, on Sunday 7th November.

Readings for Sunday 14 November

Prov.31:10-13, 30-31. Ps. 127.
1 Thess.5:1-6. Mt.25:14-30.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940