

Second Sunday of Advent



No. 613

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sunday 5 December 1999



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNISHY'S CROSS, CORK.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

"It is a more blessed thing to give than to receive", so the Lord said. Christmas is only twenty days away. The retail stores never tire of inviting us to buy gifts for ourselves to make us happy - and for our friends to ensure they will be our "forever friends".

No doubt you know of the old proverb "We are all born with clenched fists - but we die with open hands." So when we are born we reach out to grasp the fullness of life, and all it has to offer - after all, everything God made is good. But nothing is ever so fastened into our grasp than we cannot give it up. We never become slaves to our possessions - hopefully.

The moral of the story is - love people, use things - never the other way round. This is the truth that will set us free. So forget about expensive gifts this Christmas. Give the gift of yourself in a spirit of love. It will leave you with a deep and lasting satisfaction of having done something good with your life - and cemented your friendship with the Lord. "Will you put yourself out at Christmas to let Christ in?" (Fr. Tom Cox, 'Intercom').

P.S. In a recent survey in the U.S. psychologist John Rosemond estimates that while adults attain 10%-20% of things they desire, children usually get about 80% of what they want. Perhaps we should help them to be compassionate and giving and prepared for the real world - this is kindness too.

*Aennis O'Looney.*

**ST. AMBROSE**

**FEAST DAY 7 DECEMBER**

St. Ambrose (339-397) was born in Trier of a noble Roman family. He entered the public service and at an early age was made governor of Northern Italy. Although not yet baptised he was elected Bishop of Milan in 374.

Ambrose took his calling seriously, devoting himself to study and pastoral work, while living a life of poverty and humility. He defended orthodoxy against the Arians with brilliant preaching. He debarred the Emperor Theodosius from the door of the church because of a cruel murder. He converted St. Augustine whom he baptised in 386.



*We remember those who  
have gone before us*

Robert Barrett's sudden death on 11th November shocked and saddened a wide network of family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. As a life-long resident of the Model Farm Road, Bob will be remembered by all generations. A special memory for many will be seeing three generations walking to church together on a Sunday morning. Speaking to a diverse but intimate community of mourners, Fr. Tom assured us that Christ would welcome Bob with the words "I was without hope and you gave me a listening ear; I was in need and your community service helped me; I was a school pupil and you enriched our environment. Come, take the place prepared for you." We extend our sincere sympathy to Bob's wife Mary, his children Fiona, Liadhain and Maebh, his mother Moyra, sisters Audrey and Elizabeth, brothers Dermot and Thomas, to the wider family and, indeed, to the many parishioners who have lost a true friend. Ar dheis De, go raibh a anam dilis.

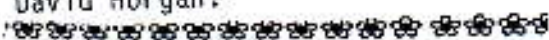
## Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to CHARLES LEAHY, Our Sacristan, on the death of his sister Margaret Terry.

To NORA QUIGLEY, 56 Wilton Gardens, on the death of her sister Patricia Keily, and her nephew Patrick Quigley.

To DANNY MAHONY, Leesdale, on the death of his brother.

To ALISON KEATING, Bishopstown Park, on the death of her father David Horgan.



*I baptize you in the name  
of the Father and of the S  
and of the Holy Spirit*

We welcome into our Christian community:

Megan Denise Smithers

Kyrian Thomas Ngai Fitzgerald

Rebecca Margaret Kelleher

Katelynn Rebecca Gearns-Crowley

Alice Laura O'Driscoll

Kathleen Maria Conneely



# THE LORD IS COMING

On Christmas Eve 1967, Martin Luther King, broadcasting to his oppressed people about a vision he had for them, quoted from the prophet Isaiah:

"Console my people, console them," says your God. "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for. Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him."

This Sunday's first reading is that same passage from Isaiah. Spoken originally to the exiled Hebrews, it awakened in them a hope that soon their oppression would be ended. Through the power of God, they would return to their homeland, free to make a fresh start in life. It is a reminder that God endures from age to age, caring for his people like a shepherd feeding his

flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast. The image is a reassuring one with its message of joy and hope. The reality is that the Hebrews had then to venture out courageously from Babylon, carving out a new way of life in the promised land. The promise was stupendous but committed cooperation with the Lord was essential.

The same offer is made to us as was made to the Hebrews. The Lord is not slow to carry out his promises. He will lead us out of sin, addiction, selfishness, despair, jealousy, fear and unforgiveness into a new life of contentment, faith, peace and hope, if only we allow him and follow trustingly. Let us prepare a way for the Lord this Advent.



## JUBILEE BOOKLETS

Our sincerest thanks to our pastoral council members and our contact persons who distributed a booklet to every home in the parish hopefully. If your home did not receive one, please let us know. The booklet has been widely appreciated.

Extra copies of the booklet are available at the church door this weekend, priced 50p. You may like to send a copy to family members living elsewhere. Thank you.



**GO OUT  
TO THE WHOLE  
WORLD,  
PROCLAIM  
THE GOOD NEWS  
TO ALL  
CREATION**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Christmas Craft Fayre



L'Arche will hold their annual Fayre this Sunday 5th, from 10 to 6 p.m. behind Togher Church. Quality handcrafted Christmas gifts, refreshments, music, Santa, etc.

## Annual Christmas Dinner



### Thank You Lord

The Bishopstown Social Services Annual Dinner for senior citizens and friends will take place on Sunday next, 12th December at 6.00 p.m. in Bishopstown G.A.A. Pavilion. Tickets £5, and transport available if required. Please contact Nora Fitzpatrick 546358, Brid Hartnett 544693 or Michael Haydon. We wish to thank our many sponsors and supporters of this event.

### CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Family Mass on Sunday 12th December at 12.15 p.m.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for St. Vincent de Paul. There will be refreshments after Mass in the Crypt.



PRAY FOR US  
WHO HAVE RECOURSE  
TO THEE

### Feast of Immaculate Conception

Next Wednesday, 8th December, is a Holyday of Obligation. Vigil Mass on Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. Masses on Wednesday at 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and 7.30 p.m.

### St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.

### Rosary Procession

In honour of the Immaculate Conception will take place on 8th December, at 8.30 p.m. commencing at Grand Parade Hotel and concluding with Benediction in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church. Bring candle/torch.

### Readings for Sunday 12 December

Is. 61:1-2, 10-11. Ps. Lk.1.  
1 Thes.5:16-24. Jn. 1:6-8,19-28.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940