

Sunday 12 December 1999



No. 614

# Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, COBK.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Pat writes*

## HAPPINESS

It's everywhere to be seen, it's up in lights, you can see it written on the backs of buses, you will hear it in your next telephone chat, it comes pouring through your letter box; what is it? Happy Christmas. Even though the message of Christmas has very little to do with snow, or indeed over-eating, yet at the very least we know that Christmas and its real meaning does involve happiness for everyone. Today is known as 'Gaudete Sunday' which means that it is the Sunday of Joy; joy that our salvation is now so near at hand.

The readings of today's Mass reflect that great joy. Isaiah proclaims this joy especially for the poor and the downtrodden in the first reading:

"He has sent me to bring Good News to the poor". Mary in her Magnificat (which is today's psalm) rejoices in God, her Saviour. St. Paul tells us in the first letter to the Thessalonians to "be happy at all times". John the Baptist in the Gospel tells us "make a straight

way for the Lord" so that all may share in the Good News which the Christ Child will bring. Today let us all rejoice and be happy that Christ is indeed so near.

## COMMENT BY RUTH

I spoke to a 6 year-old girl yesterday who hasn't written to Santa yet. She doesn't know what to ask for. Any suggestion from me wouldn't suit because she already had it or didn't want it. She'll probably browse through a catalogue and wait for something to catch her eye, and I'm sure Santa will bring that.

She knows the Christmas story now, she has a crib at home and she knows that we celebrate Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday.

I pray for her, that in years to come she won't trade in this view of Christmas for the material version that we are trying to push on her.

## ST. CATHERINE'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

1959 - 1999

Celebrating our 40th anniversary. Join us in the School Hall on Tuesday 14th December at 7.30 p.m.

All past pupils and teachers welcome.

## MOUNT MERCY NEWS

### Diograis Awards Night

In November the Annual Diograis Awards Night was held in the company of parents, pupils, teachers, sponsors and guests. The guest of honour was Mr. Micheal Martin, Minister for Education and Science who presented the awards. A musical interlude was provided by the school musicians Gillian Casey, Holly McConnell, Muireann Ni Dhonnabhain and Ruth Moloney, and the Leaving Cert. Choral Recital concluded a very enjoyable night.

**The Romanian Christmas Box Appeal** involved the collection of Christmas boxes for children in Romanian orphanages. Each consisted of a shoe box filled with a hat, scarf, gloves, a pair of socks, a packet of sweets and colouring books and crayons. The girls' response to the appeal was tremendous with almost 100 boxes being collected. These will be delivered personally to the children and would be the only present received by them this Christmas.

**Christmas Card Competition** run by the parents' association was held during the first term with all proceeds going to schools funds. There was a wonderful response and the winners were Clodagh Murphy, Rebecca O'Connor, Sarah Beasley, Stephanie Sheehan, Gemma Anthony and Triona Milne. Comhghairdeas leo go leir.

Finally, during November a presentation was made to Fr. Finbarr in the school library by the Principal and staff. Fr. Finbarr was chaplain to the school for eight years and will

be remembered for his loyalty, support and dedication to both staff and pupils at all times. We wish Fr. Finbarr well in his new appointment to the Lough parish.

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## *A Reflection*

### Like to Meet a Prophet?

A prophet is a person called by God to speak on His behalf. The prophet's message is God's message, not his own. It is given to a believing people to strengthen their faith. Jesus Christ was the greatest prophet. Before Him, many others were called to the job. Isaiah is one of the better known. He was a well to do Jew in Jerusalem who again and again emphasised the greatness of Yahweh, our God. His influence was so lasting that the writings of a later prophet were absorbed into his. This later man is now known as Isaiah the Second. His message was of a caring God, Yahweh who can deliver us from evil and does so. To meet Isaiah the Second, you could read chapters 40 to 55 of the Book of Isaiah prayerfully and slowly. You'll not only meet a prophet; you will meet your God.

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## IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to MRS. KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN, Liam Lynch Park, on the death of her sister Peggy Higgins.

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



## Rest in Peace

Alan Kelleher, Leesdale, Model Farm Road, lost his life in very tragic circumstances in November. Alan was the youngest of the Kelleher family, who lost their mother at a comparatively young age earlier this year. After the death of his mother, he very generously handed over the family home to his sister Fiona and family, and went to reside at Clashduv Road, where he died. We extend our very sincere sympathy to his young son Jamie, his sisters Pauline and Fiona, his brothers Jerry, Timmy and Stephen, and all his other relatives and friends. May he rest in peace.

Eugene O'Riordan, Sheares Park, died peacefully in Shanakiel Hospital. Eugene was one of the first residents to come to Sheares Park in 1940. As a young First Communicant, he walked in the first Cork city wide Eucharistic Procession. Before joining the staff of Cork Corporation, he had worked on the building and refurbishing of many churches throughout the county. Fr. Liam O'Callaghan, S.M.A. a schoolmate at Glasheen National School concelebrated the Requiem Mass which was attended by a wide circle of family, friends and neighbours, to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.

### *Sunday's Message for You*

Ours is fast becoming the age of the anonymous Christians. On every side there is pressure to restrict religion to being a very private individual matter. The attitude often is a condescending tolerance of one's right to follow Jesus provided that this does not impinge on the world at large. The temptation to restrict one's faith to this cosy cocoon is as insidious as it is pervasive. The suggestion is that one may be as charitable as one likes, but one must not stand up for justice for the deprived. Fidelity is fine as long as it does not challenge the promiscuous. Public expressions of faith must be down played lest they offend the sensitivities of the sophisticated. Any comfortable lifestyle is

acceptable as long as it cloaks the witness to which Jesus calls us.

Today's gospel tells of one person who did not take refuge in anonymity but openly declared his allegiance when challenged by his contemporaries. John the Baptist paid with his life for his open loyalty to Jesus. He died as a witness to the truth he believed in. It is a frightening scenario. Yet, to live like Jesus and to bear witness to him in every aspect of our lives will often only be done at great personal cost. The strengthening consolation is that such courage is well rewarded and he will enable us to bear witness to him if we trust him. It is the royal road to true happiness.



**Christmas Church Services**

Details will be printed in next weekend's Bulletin.

**Parish Pastoral Council**

Meeting on Monday 13th December at 8.10 p.m in C.P. Centre.

**Bulletins to Homes**

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend. If you do not receive your copy please let us know.

**The Giving Tree 1999**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (in conjunction with Marks & Spencers) would like to invite parishioners to support "The Giving Tree Project" at Merchants Quay Shopping Centre from 5th to 24th December. All new Toys/Gifts. Donations by the public to the project will be given to needy children in the various parishes throughout Cork City and satellite towns.

**WILTON UNITED SCHOOLBOYS SECTION**

There was a great performance by the U-11 premier team against a good Carrigaline side which saw Wilton take full points with goals from Richard Bhandkerker (2), Gavin Dorney (2), Shane Hennessy (2), Paul O'Riordan (1), Daniel Maguire (1), Jason Sexton (1) and Gerard O'Connell (1). Carrigaline's Keith Daly, Shane Meade and John Grey put in a great effort and playing well for Wilton were Paul O'Riordan, Gavin Walsh, Terry Ryan and Gavin Dorney.

Anyone from Bishopstown or surrounding areas wishing to join Wilton United should contact Mr. Noel Hennessy at 313559 or 086-8475070. All age groups welcome.

**Sunday Devotions**

During Advent at 5.00 p.m.

**Christmas at the Cathedral**

A Festival of Carols, Music and Readings will take place in the North Cathedral on Thursday 16th December at 8 p.m. featuring Mary Hegarty, Eleanor Malone, North Cathedral Choir and St. Vincent's Convent fifth class choir. Tickets £10 and £5 available at the Presbytery (304325) and Pro Musica. Proceeds in aid of Renovation Fund.

**Advent Guides  
and their Challenges**

Key question:

- Do I expect this Advent to make any difference in my life?
- To enrich my faith, to strengthen my hope, to inflame my love?
- To change any part of my life style? or my attitudes?
- Am I open to conversion? Am I prepared to pay the price?
- Do I believe that God wants to come to me more fully with his love?

These are crucial questions. Is any of it going to happen in your life NOW? If not this Advent, when...? This may not be your last Advent but it will be your only Advent '99.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**

**Readings for Sunday 19 December**

2 Sam. 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16.  
Ps. 88. Rom. 16:25-27.  
Lk. 1:26-38.