



Sunday 19 December 1999

No. 615

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

FOR MANY, coming home never loses its excitement. The prospect of welcome, warmth, and the renewal of love can energise one's whole being. Some are never able to come. Some choose never to come even when there is someone waiting for them to come. Christmas is when most come. Some cannot come all the way themselves and somebody from home goes to meet them. Such a journey is never a burden but always a joy.

While most people belong to some family or neighbourly home, there are still many who are homeless this Christmas. Some of them have a place to live but the loneliness destroys the homeliness. Others, like the Lord Jesus, have no place to lay their heads and experience the rejection of there being no room in the inn for them. To create a society where every person is at home is a basic Christian duty at Christmas and always.

To be at home is to be where one feels one belongs, where the vulnerable one feels most secure, where the successful one is loved rather than acclaimed, where failure is forgiven, where trust

evokes new beginnings, where the joy of being related is celebrated, where the bonds bind together to face adversity. Christmas is a time of being at home in this way with each other and with God. At Bethlehem, God made His home in our human nature and lives among us still. He is always at home for us and Christmas is the time when most come home to Him. Some choose never to come while others postpone the coming and another Christmas slips away. Others feel too far away and unable to come the whole way on their own. He suggests that such children come as far as they can and He will go to meet them.

For those who are away, coming home is a joy beyond compare. To help a loved one, a friend or a work colleague to come home and to come home to God at Christmas is a gift beyond compare.

Happy homecoming and Christmas blessings.



PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The final meeting of 1999 was held on 13th December and Fr. Clancy thanked everyone involved in distributing the Parish Booklet. The feedback had been excellent. Parish Calendars for 2000 will be included with the Bulletin this weekend.

In a review of the recent Triduum it was decided to invite Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll to write in the January Bulletin on the question of social justice and subsequently have a meeting of people in the parish who are interested.

There will be no Evening Mass on Christmas Day. Mass on New Year's Eve will be at sunset, 4.30 p.m. and everyone is invited to bring a candle.

There is a problem with security in the Crypt. Those using it are requested to keep the outer door closed at all times.



MOUNT MERCY NEWS

The Christmas story was told and celebrated last Monday morning in the parish church. There was a great feast of sacred scripture from both the old and new testaments, poetry readings, reflections and prayers were added, and all were united by the excellent singing of carols, accompanied by Dave O'Sullivan on the organ.



WILTON UNITED F.C.

We were delighted to welcome Paul Murphy, Head of Youth Coaching in Chelsea F.C. who carried out several coaching sessions in the U-11, U-12 and U-13 and had a chat with the U-7s. He also attended the U-12 cup match against Lakewood and his coaching paid off with Wilton putting seven past a very good side. We hope to see Paul back in the near future. Thanks to all the parents who came to the sessions to give moral support and well done to all at Wilton United for a great weekend. Tickets for Christmas Draw now available. Don't be shy. Anyone interested in joining the club please contact Noel Hennessy 313559 or 086-8475070.

ST. CATHERINE'S NEWS

We had our 40th Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday 14th December. There was a great turn-out of past pupils ranging from those first enrolled to those who have just left us!

We were joined by Mrs. Thaddeus, De Chantal, Margaret, Imelda and Redempta, and by past teachers Miss Cummins and Miss Moynihan (Tralee), Miss Naughton (Ennis) and Mrs. Owens. The gathering was entertained by the 5th class choir, and then the main business of browsing through Roll books and photos and renewing old acquaintances got underway. A great night was had by all.

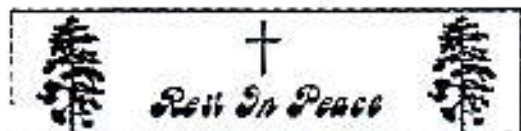


Join Us!

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

In his booklet entitled "A Brief Introduction to the Prayer of Christian Meditation", Monsignor G.T. Fehily, P.P. explains that this prayer is one of "stillness, wherein the body and mind are completely silent and still. In this stillness we bow in faith before the majesty of God who can reveal his unlimited love for us. Meditation is a simple direct method of making us present to God in love. Here, there are no words, no thoughts, no concepts, no images. We pray with Jesus dwelling in us. It is no longer "our" prayer for "we do not know how to pray". (Romans 8).

If you would like to know more about this form of prayer join us, the Parish Meditation Group, at the C.P. Centre any Thursday from 7 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.



Tom Jones, Wilton Road, passed away peacefully at St. Finbarr's Hospital on 13th December. Tom had been in failing health really since the death of his wife Eileen in March 1993, yet he managed to live an independent life almost to the end. He was a gentleman in the best sense of that word - widely read and highly talented. We extend very sincere sympathy to his family - Marie, Deirdre, Bernadette and Augustine, his sister Noreen, his grandchildren who were especially dear to him, and his many friends and relatives.

Christmas Dues

The priests of the parish thank you for your continuing financial support through the recent dues subscriptions. A special word of thanks to the helpers who distributed and collected envelopes. Happy Christmas.

St. Vincent de Paul

The Society wishes to thank sincerely all those who have contributed funds and goods, and those who have helped in our collections throughout the years, and all the children who showed such love for the needy last Sunday.

Tuesday Coffee Morning

Will resume on 11th January. We take this opportunity to thank May, Mary and Dorothy for providing this friendly and sociable get-together.



Christmas Carol Service

On this Sunday 19th at 7.30 p.m. concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Please note that Advent Devotions at 5.30 p.m. will not take place.

Reconciliation Services This Week

Mon. 20th: Curraheen 8 p.m.
Tues. 21st: S.M.A. 7.30 p.m.
Wed. 22nd: Sacred Heart 8 p.m.

Readings for Sunday 26 December

Gen. 15:1-6. 21:1-3. Ps.104.
Heb.11:8,11-12,17-19.
Lk. 2:22-40.



✂ Please cut out and keep for reference

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CHURCH SERVICES

MASSES

Christmas Eve

9.00, 10.00, 6.15 p.m.
Midnight Mass at 12.00

Christmas Day

9.00, 10.30, 12.15 pm.
No Evening Mass

Sunday 26th

9.00, 10.30, 12.15 p.m.

Monday-Friday 31st

10.00 a.m.

Friday 31st New Year's Eve

Mass of Thanksgiving
Sunset (4.30 p.m.)
Bring Jubilee Candle, please

Saturday 1st New Year's Day

12 noon and 6.15 p.m.

Sunday 2nd January

Saturday Vigil Mass 6.15 p.m.
Sunday 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 pm.

Thursday 6th January

Feast of the Epiphany
Holyday of Obligation
Wednesday Vigil Mass 7.30 pm.
Thursday 9.00, 10.30, 12.15
and 7.30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Thursday 23rd

7.00 - 8.00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Friday 24th

11 - 1; 3 - 5; 7 - 8.

Poor Clare Monastery

Christmas Eve:

Rosary at 5.30 p.m.
Mass at Midnight.

Christmas Day:

Mass at 10.00 a.m.
Chapel open for Adoration
of Blessed Sacrament
until 6.00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Day:

Mass at 10.00 a.m.
Rosary, Evening Prayer and
Benediction at 5.00 p.m.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940