



Sunday 9th January 2000

Ballineaspais Bulletin

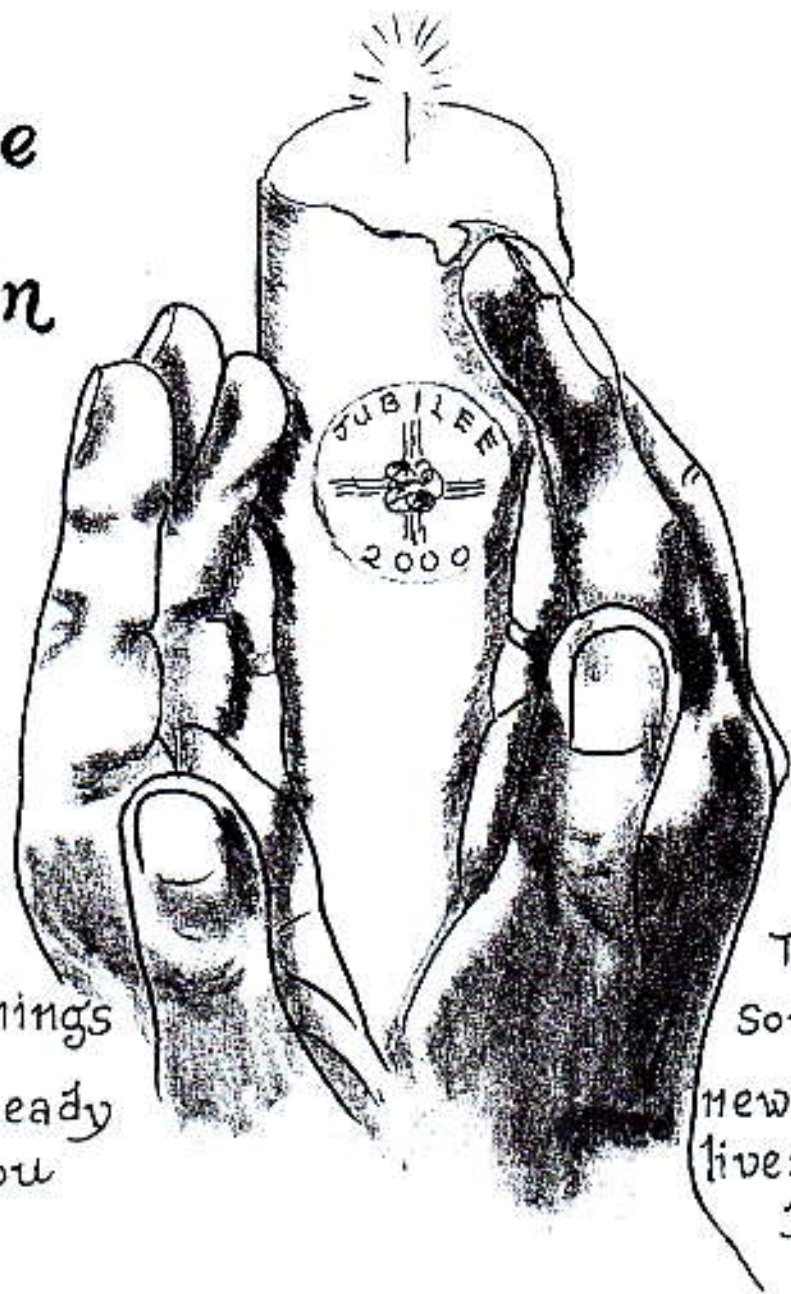
The Baptism of the Lord

No. 617



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

A Hope Reborn



Lord
of Beginnings
We are ready
for you

To do
something
new in our
lives this
year



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

Our first bulletin of the new millennium comes as the children return to school and college. In one sense, the new century belongs to them, but we all create the future by how we live out the present time. For instance, if each of us even in our own little way protects our God-given resources of water and air from pollution, there will be an enhanced environment to pass on to our children's children. If we fail to do so, the consequences will be irreversible. What is called for is a deepening awareness of our interdependence as one family sharing the one planet, Earth. Everything we do impacts for good or ill on others and we are responsible for one another as never before. It is only through shared concerns and commitments that we find happiness and, indeed, that we survive. This is true in family circles, in neighbourhoods, in work situations, as well as in the wider world.

In times of rapid change, increasing prosperity seems to bring with it an inward-looking individualism that erodes the generosity of spirit for which the human heart was created. Such self-centredness is a cancer that gnaws at every wellspring of goodness. It touches young and old, believer and unbeliever alike. The antidote is positive counter-action, to create little outreaches of generous service

each day, each week in homes, in schools, in hospitals, in the parish. It is hard to do it alone but together, and with the Spirit of Jesus, we can create an environment where the experience of genuine care for each other will inspire our young to enhance their world and ours as God intends. Such an experience will be a millennium blessing beyond compare for them. Imagine the impoverishment of growing up without knowing and appreciating the wonder of unconditional self-giving. Protect our young from such an irreversible blight. Reach out in love.

Our best thanks to all who reached out over Christmas and the New Year to contact the lonely, to care for the sick, to help with less well off and to enrich our seasonal worship here in the church. We were truly blessed. Thank you.

Happy New Year.

Thomas Clancy

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to HANCIE GILLEECE, Kilcrea Park, Magazine Road, on the death of her daughter, Nora.
To VERA MORRIS, Woodleigh Park, on the death of her sister.
To FRANCES COMERFORD, Model Farm Road, on the death of her mother, Maureen McCarthy.
To RITA LYNCH, 6 Wilton Gardens, on the death of her brother, Jackie Hurley, Clonakilty.



Letter

to the

Editor

Hillcrest,
Bishopstown Avenue

Dear Editor,
Jubilee Bells

The final year of the 20th century has seen the arrival of something new and quite unique in our parish. A group of parishioners got together and formed a hand bell ringing group, Jubilee Bells, the only one of its kind in Munster. These people worked exceedingly hard to raise funds to purchase a beautiful hand bell set and since last September a group of children have been practising every week and now an adult bell ringing group has also been established. Prior to Christmas the children participated in the Carol Service in Cobh Cathedral and both children and adults took part in our own Carol Service at Dennehy's Cross. On Christmas Eve, the children again played Christmas carols during the Vigil Mass. A special word of thanks must go to those who had the initiative to set up such a novel group and to all those who work so hard to help the group achieve success, especially their teachers. Let us hope that the New Year will bring many more opportunities for all of us to hear the wonderful sound of these bells.

Yours sincerely,
Cait Murphy

Exchange of Gifts for the Millennium

I hope to receive a millennium gift from my Church. In its liturgy and catechesis, I wish that it would begin to make use of a language and of images that acknowledge the trinitarian divine action of a God who (also) created woman, the female human person, and who found her very good, of a God who wishes to include in the body of the teaching, healing, preaching, crucified and risen Christ the female human person, of a God who indwells in Spirit in every female human person and desires to grow, flourish and bear fruit in her.

We often ask with the psalmist: "God, show us your face"! If all of creation is "like" the body of God as the theologian Sally MacFague suggests, I need my Church to acknowledge that the face I see in the mirror is capable and indeed is invited by divine love to reflect and mirror it and to be lit up by it FROM THE INSIDE.

And what gift am I offering my Church for the millennium? I am giving my Church this hope and the immense effort necessary to keep it alive.

Madelaine MacNamara

Thank You

As always to the pupils of St. Catherine's for stapling and folding the Christmas bulletin. Very much appreciated.

Sincere thanks to Carmel O'Shea, who designed and drew the cover of this week's Bulletin.



Epiphany

The first Christmas was an almost hidden event. God became human but nobody knew except Mary and Joseph and a few shepherds. Even they did not realise the full meaning of what had happened. Then the wise men came from the East to acknowledge that this infant was a special one sent by God. The coming of Magi was to show that God took on human nature not just for the chosen people but to save all people. The enterprising trio followed God's inspiration, found Christ and brought the good news back to their own people. They were not distracted from that task even by

Herod's invitation to return and enjoy his royal hospitality.

As we move into the next century, people everywhere will need to hear and heed the fact that God has visited his people and lives in our world. On the feast of the Epiphany, we ask for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us so that, like the Magi, we will follow God's call and, finding Jesus ourselves, we will not be distracted from bringing him to our own people and others during the coming year.

Living the Word

Announcements

Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend. *

Pastoral Council

Meeting on Monday 10th at 8.10 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Ministers of the Eucharist

New rota ready for collection on altar rails. Please collect your copy.



TaeKwon-Do

Free Black Belt Demonstration on Sunday 16th January at 3.30 p.m. at Gaelscoil Uí Riada Sports Hall, Wilton. Beginners classes will commence on 18th/20th January for children, teenagers/adults. Information from Alan Troy 500174.

Is It You?

Would the person who rang enquiring about different versions of baptismal certificates please phone the parish office again, Monday-Friday, 10.00 to 12.30 p.m. Tel. 344452.

Alcoholics Anonymous

There will be an Open Public Meeting held in the Crypt of Dennehy's Cross Church on Thursday 13th January at 8.30 p.m. All are very welcome.

Readings for Sunday 16 January

1 Sam. 3:3-10, 19. Ps. 39.
1 Cor. 6:13-20. Jn. 1:35-42.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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