



First Sunday of Advent

Ballineaspig Bulletin

3rd December 2000



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



FROM OUR

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Patrick writes

TO WAIT AND TO PRAY

There is something about children which is central to the whole business of Christmas. Unfortunately, it is indeed a business, but we find it so difficult to celebrate Christmas in a non-commercial way. Children all over the world wait in certainty that their gifts will be at the bottom of the tree on Christmas morning. They know that they will not be disappointed. For the rest of us we are burdened with the fact that we almost have to buy, and so earn, the happiness of the feast. What pressure therefore this so called Christian feast puts on those who have little or no financial resources.

The waiting of children at Christmas time can teach us a lot. Advent obviously is a time of preparation. It refers to that quality of God, that he is the God who comes to us. He came as man a thousand years ago; he will come as judge at the end of time; he comes in a grace-filled way at Christmas. If we believe that he is the God who comes, then this suggests a waiting on our part. We too need to wait in certainty that he will bring us the happiness and peace for which we long. This waiting for our loving Saviour is not the impatient waiting that we might experience at a bus stop, but rather an expectancy that is sustained by prayer. Mary lovingly awaited the birth of her Son. No

doubt she will help us now in 2000 A.D. to wait also so that 'When he comes he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.'

Patrick Walsh

ADVENT RECONCILIATION WREATH



In this Jubilee Year we are asked to focus on the theme of reconciliation. This year the Advent wreath in your home could be used as a symbol that promotes reconciliation and transformation in preparation for the coming of Jesus.

This is a departure from the traditional symbolism of the Advent wreath. Each candle is symbolic of the life of the community:

1. The first candle could be lit to represent the life of the young;
2. The second candle could represent family life;
3. The third candle could be lit to remember the older members of our community, who have passed on the light of faith to us;
4. The fourth candle could symbolise our need to forgive those who have offended us and also those we have offended.



Jim Mulligan, St. Clare's Avenue, died at home on 24th November. Born near Ballyjamesduff, he came to Cork as a gárda and spent most of his life here, going to work in Musgrave's when he retired from the Force. He was highly respected by colleagues in both areas as was clear from their presence at his removal and funeral Mass. Though in failing health for some years, he maintained a great love for traditional music and poetry as well as for his native Cavan. Above all Jim was a great family man and to them we offer our sincerest sympathies, to his wife Bina, to his daughter Eileen, son-in-law Pat, grandson Peter and to the extended family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

(submitted by a parishioner)

"The certainty that is born of Faith – so effortless, so calm – is bound to be mistaken by the world for its human counterfeits, hypocrisy, and fanaticism. Yet the world is confounded, for those who have eyes to see, by the sincerity and balance which Faith implants in the believing soul."

- Fr. Avery Dulles on his conversion to Catholicism

FAITH IN ACTION

Torture – taking a step to stamp it out

- ◆ Torture and ill-treatment inflicted by State officials has been recorded in over 150 countries since 1997.
- ◆ In more than 70 countries torture or ill-treatment by state officials was widespread.
- ◆ 80 countries have tortured people to death.
- ◆ It happens almost everywhere:
 - in police stations and jails,
 - in the locked prison cells of Europe and the open fields of Africa.
- It happens
 - in schools and orphanages, and it happens in homes.

You can support Amnesty International's campaign to eradicate torture. Write to the Taoiseach and demand that Ireland ratifies the Statute of the International Criminal Court without further delay.

(The International Criminal Court will try cases of torture and other international crimes against humanity.)

For further information on the Stamp Out Torture Campaign contact Amnesty International: 01-677 6361





Keep Christ In Christmas

Gift Giving

How far from the true spirit of Christmas can gift giving be? Is there a better way to celebrate the birthday of the King of Kings than by bringing a gift for someone we love?

"Yes, but..."

The "but" is the reminder that the gift giving should not put us in debt. When it seems to be getting out of hand why not pray about what and how much we should give to our children and friends and family.

If it is becoming a burden – emotionally and financially – then it's time to re-evaluate. Is what I am doing making this a happier and holier time for my family and me? If not, plan for a more Christ-like and joyful celebration.

Trócaire Global Gifts for Christmas

Last week's *Bulletin* gave the details of this novel scheme. You can give a gift to the Third World in the name of a friend or relative. Certificates range from £10 to £100. You can literally put a roof over someone's head this Christmas.

Do complete the form you picked up at the church last week or phone Trócaire at 1850 408 408 to order your gift certificates.

Christmas Cards

Make each card a prayer for the person who will receive it. As you sign each card "love", think of what it means to have the incredible grace of loving another person. Really make the card a prayer and an act of love.



Christmas Gatherings

How wonderful to get together with friends. Of course, you must be careful about drinking (and eating) too much. Don't drive when you've been drinking. But, again remember: Jesus did not use grape juice at the Last Supper. Respect brother alcohol and use him – never abuse him. When we use all of God's creation properly we praise him and give him glory.

Reconciliation

Advent is a natural time to make a good confession. Examine your conscience about your relationships – to yourself, to Jesus and to your neighbour. Let Jesus help you through the sacrament to heal any parts of your heart that are wounded or not at peace. Jesus wishes peace for you. Ask him for that precious gift the angels announced to the shepherds – peace of mind and heart.

Another important form of reconciliation is for us to reach out to someone who has hurt us or whom we have hurt. Each week of Advent phone someone with whom you are at odds. What a merry and blessed Christmas it will be if we do that!

- Come: Celebrate Jesus
Fr. Francis X. Gaeta



Advent Devotions

There will be Rosary and Benediction on Sunday, 3rd December, at 5.00 p.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Next Friday, 8th December, will be a Holyday of Obligation. Vigil Mass on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. and Masses on Friday at 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and 7.30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Young Priest Society

The monthly meeting will take place next Thursday 7th at 8.00 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Enrolment Week: Glasheen National Schools

Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Glasheen Boys' and Girls' National Schools, hold their enrolment week from Monday, 4th December to Thursday 7th December.
Tel: Boys' School: 021- 454 4750;
Tel: Girls' School: 021- 454 2294.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

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

N.A.O.M.I.

For information on pre-marriage courses, natural family planning, achieving a pregnancy and menopause counselling, contact the above at 36 Washington Street, tel. 427 2213.



Jubilee Bells in Action

The parish hand-bell ringers will play at the following venues:

12th December – Cheshire Home

14th December – Carol Concert, Cobh;

15th December – Wilton Shopping Centre in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Bishopstown G.A.A. Annual Mass

The Annual Mass for deceased members of the club will take place in Bishopstown GAA Club on Sunday, 3rd December at 10.30 a.m. with the AGM in the afternoon at 2 p.m.

Bulletin Contributions

Letters or articles for the Bulletin should be handed in to the C.P. Centre. All contributions should bear the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

Jubilee Rosary Procession

in honour of the Immaculate Conception will be held on 8th December at 8.30 p.m. The procession starts at the Grand Parade Hotel and concludes with Benediction in St. Peter and Paul's Church. Bring a candle or torch.

Readings for Sunday, 10th December

Baruch 5: 1-9; Ps. 125;

Phil 1: 3-6; 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940