

10th December 2000



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent



No. 657

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEY'S CROSS, CORK



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

Michael was adamant that Advent is a non-starter as a preparation for Christmas. As he sees it, Advent is a religious preparation for the commercial celebration that Christmas has become. In his book, the religious and the commercial do not mix, or at least, when they do, the commercial always wins, so religions should abandon Advent and Christmas and leave them to the moneymakers, and find new ways and times of celebrating our faith. Such defeatism is unworthy of the follower of Christ who is called to bring gospel values into every nook and cranny of ordinary life.

This weekend John the Baptist calls on his people to prepare the way for the Lord. The call is the same for each one of us in our own way. It is to prepare our hearts, our homes, our relationships, our country for a new coming of Jesus and His Spirit. Will He find us ready to welcome Him in our brothers and sisters, to shine with Him in them, to include the foreigner and the failure in our family and in His family? If not,

Christmas will have become a purely commercial celebration. This loss will be ours.

John the Baptist

Advent Prayer

O God, our loving Father,
we thank you for giving us your Son
to be the light of our world.
As we light our Advent candles
and open the doors of our Advent
calendars,
help us gradually to open our minds
and hearts to his coming.
Your love came as a baby,
may we cherish our children and our
families.
Your love came as a preacher
proclaiming the Good News of
salvation;
may we cherish our Christian faith
and share it.
Your love will come again as judge at
the end of time;
may we cherish and follow your
law of love;
may we always walk in the light of
the same Christ our Lord.

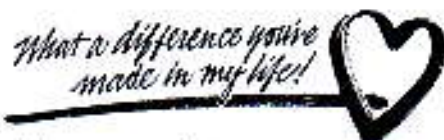
Amen.

- Tony Castle



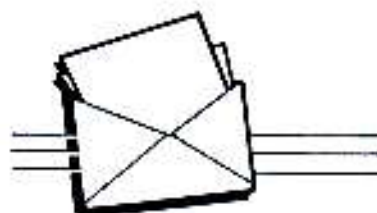
Christmas Reconciliation
Sunday December 17th

Throughout the afternoon from 2.00 p.m. onwards there will be a priest available for Confession. The Parish Reconciliation Service will begin at 4.30 p.m. with a choice of confessors available.



"Looking upon Christ as a source of true life, I desired with all my heart to approach him more closely. He must, I knew, have established some bridge by which we could come to Him across a gap of two millennia to hear His authentic teaching and receive His ministrations. It would argue a contradiction in God if he had revealed the truth through Christ and then suffered that Revelation to be mutilated. It would violate the logic of the Incarnation for Christ to have left no visible sacraments to serve as channels of His grace. And, in fact, as the Gospels themselves clearly testified, Christ had instituted a Church to keep His doctrine incorrupt and to carry on His work of sanctifying souls."

- Avery Dulles on his conversion to Catholicism



Dear Editor,

We had a visit to our church last week from a group of girls from Mount Mercy College. They came to Mass.

I must comment that the girls were a credit to their school and their families. They were well mannered, dignified and deserve only the highest praise. Welcome back again.

Sincerely,
J.F.



God's House, Our House

It is a great joy to see all the family at home in the church here. Children are always particularly welcomed by the Lord himself. Great credit must be given to parents who make such an effort to ensure all join the community in prayer. Help us to keep the church clean by taking all left-overs with you including wrappers and food remnants. Sticky sweets can be a real hazard for unsuspecting worshippers and for our cleaners. Thank you.



Bulletins to Homes

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



Family Christmas Mass

Rehearsals for shepherds, angels and those children who volunteered for other roles will take place on:

Thursday 14th Dec. 6.00-7.30 p.m.

Saturday 16th Dec. 3.00-4.00 p.m.



Cór an Spioraid Naomh

The 10.30 Mass on Sunday 10th December will be offered for the deceased members of our Church Choir.



Advent Devotions

There will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday 10th at 5.00 p.m.

Alzheimer Society Cork Branch

Carers support meeting on Monday 11th December in Jurys Hotel at 8.00 p.m.

Ballineaspais Bridge Club

Bridge lessons for total beginners commence on Tuesday 9th January 2001 in Ballineaspais G.A.A. Club. Anyone interested should ring 4343684 or 4544220.

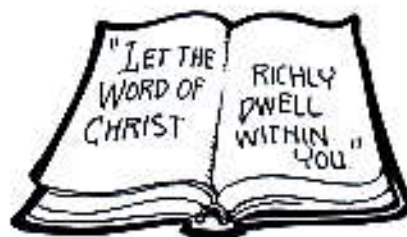


L'Arche Community

The annual Christmas Craft Fayre will take place on Sunday 10th December, 10.00-5.30 p.m. behind Togher Church. Quality hand-crafted Christmas gifts galore. Please support.

Ursuline P.P.U. Christmas

Lunch in Vienna Woods Hotel on Friday 15th December at 1.00 p.m. Ring Teresa Byrne, 4504226 to book.



Readings for Sunday 17 December

Zeph. 3:14-18. Ps. Is. 12:2-6.

Phil. 4:4-7. Lk. 3:10-18.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940




FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MASS AT 12.15 - SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

THE MASS WILL BE A SPECIAL MASS FOR CHILDREN, INCLUDING A CHRISTMAS TREE CEREMONY.



Children are asked to write a message for the child Jesus on a little card which can be coloured and decorated as each child wishes. The message can be a greeting, a 'Thank You', a promise or a little request the child would like to write for Jesus for his birthday. We suggest that the card would be approx. 6" square and would have a little string attached so that it may be hung from our Christmas tree. Before mass the children will leave their cards in baskets provided.

We ask everyone to bring a gift, a non-perishable item, to the mass (no toys please). We ask that it be wrapped so that there will be no sense of competition. It will be announced during mass when to bring it to the altar. These gifts will later be distributed by St. Vincent De Paul Society to people in our area.
REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS IN THE CRYPT.

