



17th December 2000

No. 658

Ballineaspaig Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CO. DK.



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

RECONCILIATION

An essential aspect of living as followers of Jesus is living in right relationship with oneself, within one's family, among one's neighbours and colleagues and, of course, with one's God. In the course of human living, relationships often get bruised, frayed or, even, severely damaged. We all need to look at our relationships, to forgive and be forgiven, to heal the hurts and to be healed ourselves, to renew the neglected and to revitalise the barren loves in our lives. Christmas is the incentive and Sunday is the opportunity to do just that, to deepen our awareness of the wonder of who we are as children of God and as brothers and sisters of each other.

Join us on this Sunday to thankfully praise our God, and to pray for one another that we may open ourselves again to the healing power of his forgiveness. Some may not be ready for that step yet. But our prayer service will include an opportunity to include such loved ones who are unable to join us, but who need the healing touch of his merciful hand. Come along at 4.30 p.m. this Sunday and bring a friend.

Thomas Blaney

THANKS

The priests of the parish thank very sincerely all who have returned their Christmas Dues either directly or through the courtesy of our dedicated collectors. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

We offer our best thanks, too, to those who distribute the Bulletin to the homes so faithfully every month throughout the year, as well as to the contact people who will distribute the new parish calendar shortly.

With over 200 people involved in these tasks, it is possible that an individual home or group of houses may be overlooked. If so, please contact the parish office (4344452) or one of the priests, and we will do our best to rectify the situation.

Reconciliation Sunday

December 17th

2.00 p.m. onwards Priest available for
Confession

4.30 p.m. Reconciliation Service with
choice of Confessors

Neighbouring Reconciliation Services

S.M.A. Wilton: Mon. 17th 7.30 p.m.

Curraheen: Tues. 18th 8.00 p.m.

Sacred Heart: Wed. 19th 7.30 p.m.

Readings for Sunday 24 December

Mic. 5:2-5; Ps. 79; Heb. 10:5-10; Lk. 1:39-45.

At Christmas at home and abroad there are many lovely customs associated with the Feast.

- (a) The practice of exchanging gifts around Christmas pre-dates Christianity itself. In ancient Rome people exchanged gifts as tokens of their good wishes to friends at New Year. When Christianity came, the custom was continued, but directly associated with Christmas – when God sent his special gift of love for us – His only Son.
- (b) In Britain St. Stephen's Day is called Boxing Day. It's a relic of the old Christian custom of opening the alms boxes in church and distributing the money to the poor.
- (c) St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) brought gifts for young people, but left them anonymously before the feast (hence the idea of Christmas stocking).
- (d) The custom of holly and ivy and evergreen Christmas trees originated in Germany and Eastern Europe in pagan

times. All nature seems dead at Christmas, the middle of winter. The green holly and ivy and trees were signs of life and good luck.

- (e) As you know, St. Francis started the idea of the Crib in the year 1223 at a place called Greccio, not far from Assisi. Here he brought the story of Bethlehem to life in a cave, that people might feel and see how much the Son of God wanted to be poor when He was born for love of us.
- (f) The idea of the Christmas card was started in England in 1843 to save time writing Christmas greetings.
- (g) In Irish homes candles were lit in every window of the house on Christmas Eve. This was intended as a sign that Jesus was welcome in the home – and indeed the weary traveller would be welcomed in his name.

*For long ago in Bethlehem a star
arose above the place where the Infant
Jesus was laid.*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

(submitted by a parishioner)

PEACE

The news that all Christmas celebrations have been cancelled in Bethlehem this Christmas because of the continuing fighting between the Israelis and Palestinians is very sad. Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus has had its share of trouble since the disturbance began. To date seven people from the Bethlehem region have been killed.

Perhaps this is a good time for us, personally, to evaluate what peace means to us in our own lives. Peace is not just the absence of conflicts and war, rather it is a priceless treasure and a gift from God to enhance our lives. As Christians, we are challenged to promote and maintain peace, not only in our own relationships but also to bequeath it to others. We must pray to

the Holy Spirit the source of all peace to give us peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, in our country and the world. In particular, we are asked to mend the 'broken fences' of our relationship with God and with others, especially at Christmas time. Our abiding prayer for our dead is that they rest in peace. Our ongoing task for us, who are still above ground, is that we endeavour to live in peace.

Finally, we have the beautiful exhortation from Jesus himself on the Mount of Beatitudes, when he proclaimed – "Blessed are the peacemakers for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

May the peace of which the angels sang on the first Christmas night be with you and yours at this time.



Pastoral Council News

At the December meeting members began a series of discussions on what they hoped to achieve during the three year term just beginning under the following headings - (a) Consultation (b) Community (c) Support (d) Belonging. Fr. Clancy put strong emphasis on the giftedness of so many people who had so much to contribute. He stressed the fact that in a reasonably short period of time we could find ourselves with just one Priest in our parish. People will have to realise that this is their Church and consider an appropriate response. It was felt that a very useful mechanism for consultation between priest and people was already in place, namely, the contact persons in each area. It was decided that meetings would take place before Easter between priests, contact people and the council member in each area. Other aspects of parish life were mentioned such as our response to what was termed our 'floating population' and how contact could be made with them, thereby introducing them to a sense of belonging in our community. Our student population is of particular concern in this respect. If as a parishioner you have any comments or ideas to offer we would love to hear from you. Why not put pen to paper in our bulletin or contact any council member?

The end of the Jubilee Year will be marked at 6.15 p.m. Mass on 6th January 2001, the feast of the Epiphany.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

We wish to thank all of you for contributing to our collections over the past year £23,918.19 was raised in the monthly collections, and £1,872.95 in donations to the coal fund. This was then used to help the needy in the Bishopstown and Wilton parishes. May God bless your generosity.

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following parishioners who were married during the past few months:

D.J. McALLEN, 64 Leesdaile, Model Farm Road, who married Deborah Lynch, Turner's Cross.

JASON BENNETT, 23 Kenley Avenue, who married Janice Mulcahy, The Glen.

JOHN MEADE, 111 Leesdaile, Model Farm Road, who married Margaret Mannin, Mallow.

TIMOTHY KELLEHER, Gennazzano, Farranlea Park, who married Grainne Kiernan, Blackrock, Dublin.

ANGELA O'DONOGHUE, 76 Wilton Gardens, who married Martin O'Donovan, Cathedral Street.

CATHERINE HORGAN, Bishopscourt Road, who married Aidan O'Shea, Killarney.

SHARON DUNNE, Carrigrohane Road, who married Richard Quilligan, Farranree.

DEBBIE LUCEY, Farranlea Grove, who married Kieran O'Sullivan, Sunview Terrace, College Road.

INVITATION

We at St. Catherine's would like to extend our invitation to our neighbours to come and see some of our concert items, have a chat and a cup of tea, on Thursday 21st December from 11.30 - 12.30. All welcome.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our parish the following who were baptised recently:

Cian Robert Spicer-O'Grady
Shane David Murphy

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to BRIAN, 10 Bishopscourt Lawn, and FINBARR, Laburnum Park, on the death of their mother Nellie Quaid.



✂ Please cut out and keep for reference

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CHURCH SERVICES

MASSES

Christmas Eve (Sun. 24th)

9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

No Evening Mass

Midnight Mass 12.00

Christmas Day

9.00, 10.30 12.15

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th

9.00, 10.00

Saturday 30th

9.00, 10.00, 6.15

Sunday 31st

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Monday 1st January

12 noon

Friday 5th January

9.00, 10.00, 7.30

Saturday 6th January

Feast of the Epiphany

Holyday of Obligation

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Vigil Mass 6.15 p.m to

mark end of Jubilee Year.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 23rd

11.00 - 1.00, 5.00 - 6.00,

7.00 - 8.00 p.m.

Sunday 24th

4.00 6.00 p.m.

POOR CLARE CHAPEL

Christmas Eve

No Rosary, Evening Prayer,
or Benediction

Midnight Mass as usual at
midnight

Christmas Day

Mass at 10.00 a.m.

Chapel open as usual for
Adoration.

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Tom Clancy 4347616

Fr Patrick Walsh 4348588

Dean O'Connor 4542972

Emergency Number:

087 - 251 9940