



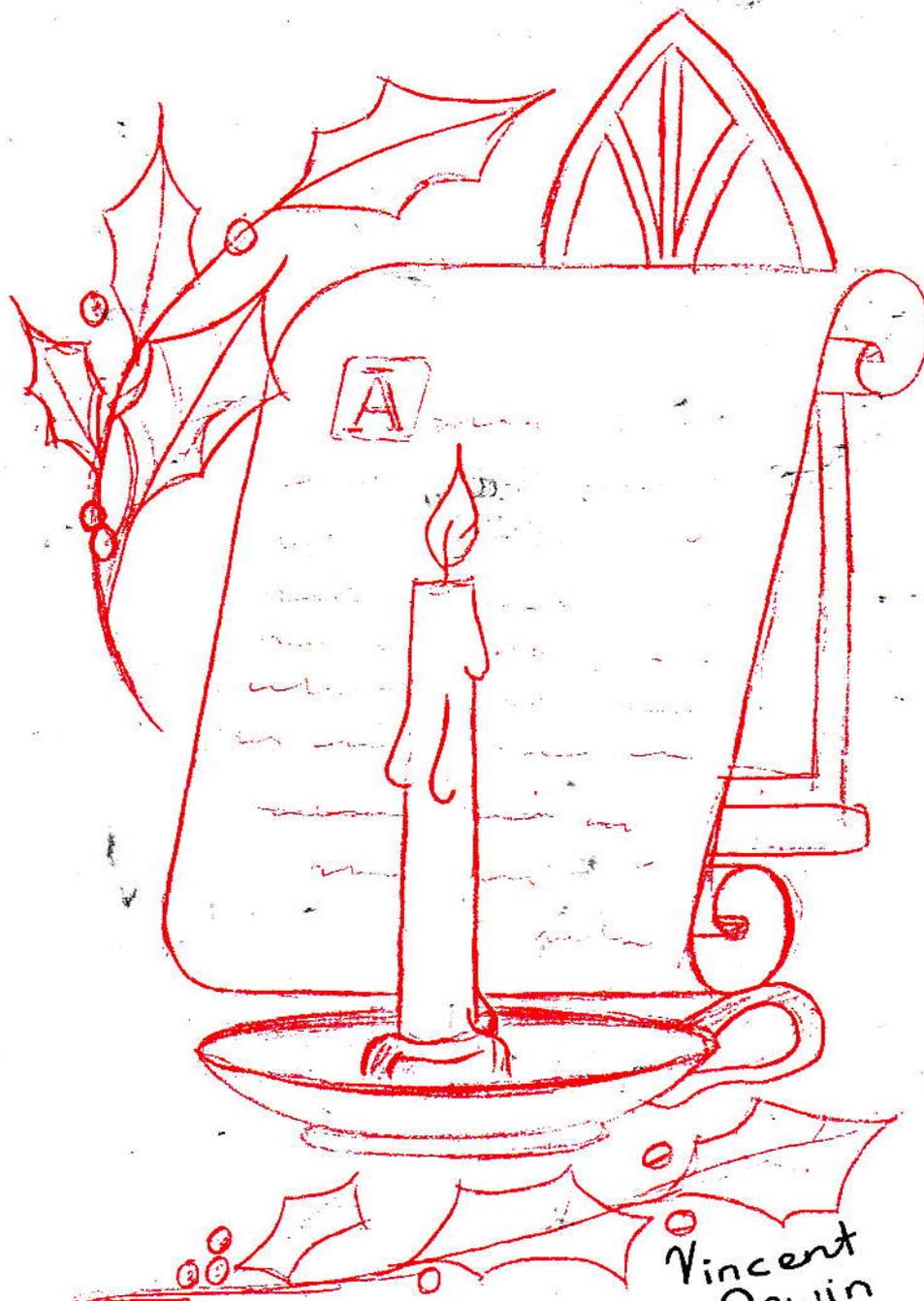
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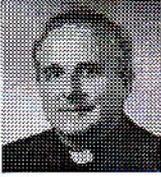
Ballineaspig Bulletin

Christmas 2000



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





OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**

writes

Despite commercial exploitation and manipulative misuses of the custom, gift giving is a hallmark of our Christmas season. God, the creator of all and the giver of all we are and have, knows that there is more to interpersonal love than the giving of things. So He gives Himself to us in His Son Jesus through the working of the Holy Spirit. His joining our human family through Mary is the cornerstone of our faith. It is why we believers gather in families and as family to worship and give thanks in our Christmas Eucharist where we receive with joy the one true God. To have the faith to generously receive the greatest gift of all is a blessing beyond compare, a blessing to be nurtured and shared at this time especially among those we love intimately. There too, secure in those inner sacred relationships, we grow in appreciation of our giftedness to one another and grow in confidence to share our personal gifts with all those whose lives we touch at home, in the parish and in the wider world.

May we receive graciously from God, our families and friends.

May we be generous in sharing our talents in the year ahead.

May others know that they are loved because of our care.

May the peace and joy of Jesus be in

every heart and every home in the parish this Christmas and always.

Thomas O'Leary



Our
EDITOR
writes

Dear Bulletin Readers,

This Jubilee Year has been full of special events. I don't think any of us will ever forget our parish pilgrimage. We are grateful too for the formation of the Faith in Action group. We take pleasure in the vision that created the jubilee bell ringers. Our Lenten lunch-time "Lent on the Edge" was a great success. Adult Education Lectures on the Sacraments were inspiring. We had a moving Inter-Faith Service with the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church.

We celebrated our church's fortieth birthday with a night of prayer and the welcoming of a new arrival through Baptism. A sister was received in the Poor Clare community and a parishioner became a seminarian in Maynooth. To crown this special year, our Dean received the award of the best Newsletter Editorial in Ireland.

On behalf of the Bulletin Team, I wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and fruitful New Year.

Irene M. Connolly



Christmas is Love



The love of God is limitless.

For those he loved God became the one who lives in the rat-infested caravan.

He is the homeless one who sleeps on cardboard boxes.

Jesus is the woman who's embarrassed to open her door and put out her hand for the Vincent de Paul hamper.

Jesus is the drunk with the alcoholic problem.

He is the one thrown into a cell awaiting trial for petty thieving to feed his drug habit.

He is the travelling mother who drags her children around, tired and weary, asking for "a little help."

Jesus is the one who is poor at making friends or living in a difficult relationship.

He is the lonely, the old, the marginalised.

God is Love. Beyond all else this is the tremendous truth of Christmas.



This God, this Infant Jesus, is the Lord of the million stars that light our skies. The Baby Jesus born in such poverty is the great God who made mountains, who controls the oceans. It is his hand that opens the petals of the rose. This is the God who created the sparkling diamond and whose voice is in the gentle rippling of streams.

To think that God loves us so much overwhelms me. For 2,000 years Love, Hope, Joy and Peace have come from the stable in Bethlehem. We can bring this Love, Hope, Joy and Peace to others by reaching out with tolerance, patience, understanding, a listening ear. With smiles and laughter, for they too bring God's Love.



We are for our world what Jesus was for his, a light in the midst of darkness. If Jesus is to be born into the world today, it is through us.

Carmel O'Shea