

7th January 2001



No. 660



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

Ballineaspig Bulletin

The Baptism of Our Lord



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

A TIME FOR SAYING THANK YOU

My dear friends,

Here we go again at the start of a bright New Year. The year just past saw many good things happen in our parish – thanks be to God – and thanks to all our devoted and loyal parishioners too, who helped to make things happen – quietly but effectively, week in week out. We have our Ministers, Readers, Collectors, Altar Servers, Altar Society, Choirs and Cantors – our new Pastoral Council, Liturgy Group, Bulletin helpers and Contact persons – our St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society, Coffee Mornings, Workers on Bookrack, Dues Collectors, Friendship Club – and of course our ever efficient Sacristan Charlie Leahy, and equally efficient Parish Secretary Anne O'Riordan. The door is always open for further volunteers to join the ranks. Whisper your name to any priest or worker in our parish.

The New Year is a time for further plans and resolutions. One daily paper during the week thinks we shouldn't try – our efforts at improvement are doomed to failure, like so many that

went before. What a negative and pessimistic philosophy. It's always better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. The only failure is the one who quits.

So on we go, shoulder to shoulder, to face the challenges of 2001 – hitching our wagon to a star – and full of trust in the Lord.

Ann O'Connell

FR. FACHNA O'NEILL.

Sharing closely their shock and sense of loss we, in Ballineaspig, Dennehy's Cross, offer our sincerest sympathies to our neighbours, priests and people of Curraheen on the death of their cherished pastor, Fr. Fachna O'Neill, R.I.P. Many here were helped by his ministry, not only in Curraheen Church and schools, but when he came here to this church even as recently as our pre-Christmas reconciliation and celebrated the sacrament with so many of us. To all who share most intensely the pain of his leaving us so suddenly, his family, people, priests and friends, we send our prayerful thoughts and sympathy. He will be sorely missed. Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a anam dilis.

Rest In Peace



Rest in Peace

Early on Sunday morning 10th December Dan Murphy, Model Farm Road, slipped quietly away to heaven after several years of illness patiently borne in the dedicated and loving care of his wife Nora. A native of Rathduff, Dan had been a faithful parishioner and kindly neighbour for over a quarter of a century, even though his affection for and his interest in his native place and its people never waned. It was among them that he was buried in Grenagh after a beautiful funeral liturgy to which his loving nieces and nephew contributed so wonderfully. Having a fine voice himself, he would appreciate especially the finely sung psalm. To his wife Nora, to his nieces and nephews and to the wider family we extend our sympathies. Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a anam.

The death of Nellie Quaid at the Bon Secours Hospital on 12th December saw one of our brightest characters depart our parish. Nellie came to Cork as a young girl to nurse at the South Infirmary. She married Con Quaid, an official of the Dept. of Agriculture, and they raised a large and talented family at their home in Laburnum Park. Nellie's husband predeceased her by about 20 years. We extend sincere sympathy to her family – Tony, John, Michael, Breda, Noel, Kieran, Marian, Eileen, Kevin, Finbarr and Brian, her brother and a large circle of relatives and friends.

Ann Doyle, Parklea Court, Model Farm Road, died at a comparatively early age at Marymount on Christmas Eve. If anybody ever taught us how to die with dignity and serenity it was Ann. She accepted the reality of her illness with equanimity, knowing there was no reprieve, but with total trust in the love of God. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Denis, her family Elaine, Della, Denis Jnr., Sean and Kevin. It was a sad memory for them at Christmas, but in another sense inspirational. May she rest in peace.

From "The Wind in the Oak"



I have no fear of death - but I shall welcome a helping hand to see me through.

For it is said that just as everyone has a guardian angel, so to each one comes somebody to help us over the last stile

Once I am over, I know a door will open on a new loveliness and freshness of colour, form and light which is far more beautiful than anything I have ever seen or imagined.





A PARISHIONER WRITES...

Derrymore,
Wilton Road

Dear Editor,

It was disappointing to read in the Christmas edition of the parish bulletin Jesus described as "the drunk with the alcoholic problem", the petty thief and the drug addict. Such descriptions are reductionist, especially inappropriate in a Catholic parish bulletin, and clearly wrong because Jesus is the sinless one, the lamb of God, and therefore cannot be any of the people listed in the tract. To suggest that we are the light for our world as Jesus was for His is also wrong. Jesus was not limited or imprisoned by time as we are. He is the light of the world for all time and eternity. We can only be witnesses of the light. The tract also repeated the socialist mantra on material poverty to the neglect of Christ's main concern, viz., spiritual poverty – the lack of sanctifying grace in the soul because of sin.

Christ chose poverty rather than riches but He did not choose nor does He intend the type of destitution which some bring upon themselves by breaking His moral law. Sorry for complaining but I would have preferred a tract emphasizing the spiritual reality of adoration and gratitude rather than the material reality of human degradation listed at the outset.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas J. Waldron

Editor replies:

1. *Our inspirational Christmas vision was a reflection on the words of Jesus himself: "I was hungry and you gave me to eat. As long as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25)*

2. *Jesus himself told us: "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)*

3. *The compassion of Jesus reaches out especially to those who are in difficulty through their own fault.*

We confidently and gratefully stand over our challenging Christmas reflection.

Announcements

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday 6th January is a Holyday of Obligation. Vigil Mass on Friday at 7.30p.m. and Masses on Saturday at 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and 6.15 p.m.

Alzheimer Society (Cork Branch)

Carers' Support Meeting on Monday 8th January at Jury's Hotel at 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday Coffee Morning

Coffee morning will resume on Tuesday 9th January after 10.00 Mass. Everybody welcome.

End of Jubilee Year

One of the first jobs that God had on earth was that of being a gardener; the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the East (*Genesis*). It was a sign of the life that God had given to the world. To mark the end of the Jubilee we will be celebrating a special Mass on 6th January at 6.15 p.m. This will include the blessing and planting of the Jubilee Tree. It will, please God, be a sign to us of God's life in our world.



A New Year Blessing

This weekend marks the official conclusion of the Jubilee Year. The gospel at Mass highlights the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. Water is a sign of life and blessing, both in our own baptism and in the use of holy water. We use it today as a sign and prayer that we may be cleansed of all selfishness, sin, hurt and that the life of Christ may be nourished within us.

As we begin the New Year, there will be a small bottle of blessed holy water, one for each household, available after Mass. You are invited to collect one on your way home to bless your family and home at an early suitable opportunity.

Suggested Blessing

In so far as possible, gather all family members, at a mealtime perhaps, and together pray the protection of the Lord and His peace for the year ahead on each one present, and on absent family members.

Steps:

- (1) As family members gather, let the youngest light a jubilee or baptismal candle and place it in a centre position.
- (2) Sing a hymn of praise or thanksgiving. (Children have many suitable ones from school).
- (3) Read a gospel story (today's or last Sunday's).
- (4) The leader introduces prayers like the prayers of the faithful to be composed by the persons involved. Possible prayers could be (a) family members gathered, (b) those absent, (c) those who have died, (d) neighbours and friends, (e) the sick, (f) the Pope, (g) the homeless.
- (5) All share the Our Father to pray that God's kingdom of peace, harmony, truth and forgiveness may be in the home in 2001.
- (6) Invite Mary to be at the heart of the family by reciting the Hail Mary.
- (7) In the "Glory be to the Father", together we acknowledge our common faith in the Trinity.
- (8) Sprinkle each person present with the holy water. Sprinkle each room in the house, while singing another hymn perhaps.

Hopefully, all present will then be able to share a celebratory meal of thanksgiving for family home and shared faith.

P.S. If a neighbouring family is not here today you might like to take a bottle of water and the prayer leaflet to them.

Readings for Sunday 14 January

Is.62:1-5; Ps.95;
1 Cor.12:4-11; Jn.2:1-11.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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