



21st January 2001

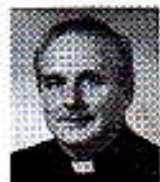
No. 662

# Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENEHY'S CROSS, CO. K.



OUR  
**PARISH  
PRIEST**  
*writes*

During the week a gospel reading struck me deeply. It was the story of the man with the withered hand being told by Jesus to stretch out the ailing limb. In the stretching out, the hand was revitalised.

In our time, neighbourliness is withering as the cult of privacy and self-interest becomes the more accepted way of living, undermining our responsibility for each other as children of the one family of God. For a growing number of baptised people in all generations, but especially the younger ones, the experience of Jesus and his church in their lives has faded almost into oblivion. Despite new shoots of hope in some areas of Christian living, the more dominant attitude is one of withering irrelevance. But the Lord's reassuring challenge to us as a community is to stretch out the hand of faith, hope and love to one another, to those we love, to neighbours and to the wider circle of contacts in our world. In the reaching out, our communal life as believers will be revitalised.

Now may not be the easiest of

times to be an outgoing follower of Jesus, but it is the time we have. Jubilee time is over. 2001 is our new century. It is a time of new beginnings, a time to explore new ways to follow the Jesus option in a rapidly changing world.

What is the Spirit of God saying in your heart and in all our hearts at this time? We must hear and heed Him together.

*Thomas Cleary*



### Mount Mercy News

Congratulations and well done to Cressida Brennan, Joanne Cleary and Deirdre Devery who were awarded scholarships to U.C.C. for the 2000/2001 session based on their excellent Leaving Cert. results. Congratulations also to Frieda Long and Fiona Walsh, both Transition Year students, who have been offered German scholarships based on their Junior Cert. results in German.



James Martin, Highfield Lawn. Jimmy Martin lived quietly at his home with his wife Edith (who predeceased him) and his family. His sister Eileen McCarthy kept house for him after the unexpected death of Edith. It was as manager of the Oyster Tavern, Patrick Street, that James was best known to the general public of Cork. Here for over forty years he received high and low with equal courtesy in his crisp Northern accent. His loyalty and efficiency to his work are well documented. With all that, he had a heart of gold, when gold was needed. He was unashamed in his loyalty to Faith and Fatherland. We extend sympathy to his daughters Nancy, Margaret and Isabelle, his sisters Eileen and Winnie, his grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

On Sunday 7th January Catherine (Kay) McAuliffe died unexpectedly and peacefully at her home at College Road after a long and full life. Devoted to family and home, she will be sadly missed by all whose lives she touched. A keen bridge player, she had enjoyed the game with much success up to the end and appreciated the friendships forged there. To her husband William, son Billy (Dublin), daughter Marion (Canada), her brother, sister, grandchildren and wider family and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy.

### Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh

#### St. Vincent de Paul:

The Christmas food appeal was a great success again this year with approx. £700 worth of foodstuffs being passed on to the hostel for homeless men. We thank the parents who contributed so generously. The collection was overseen by a group of Transition Year students who are especially busy at the moment taking part in a video project with the S.V.P. chapter in Mount Mercy College.

#### On the Sports Field:

Our gaelic footballers had a good run in the Munster U-15 competition before being beaten by Midleton C.B.S. Perhaps the most memorable moment on an otherwise best forgotten day was the collision between the bus and a lorry on the return journey! Thankfully the damage was minor and there were no injuries.



#### Top Award for Bulletin Distributor

Congratulations to Laura Hurley who won the runner-up prize for the best individual project in this year's Esat Young Scientist Competition. Laura, a student in Mount Mercy College, distributes the Parish Bulletin in the Wilton Avenue area.



## Church Unity Octave

Attempting to write about Church Unity Octave in a spirit of hope and optimism is difficult in the light of the painfully slow progress being made by all of the Christian Churches. Many feel that "Dominus Jesus" has not helped the cause of ecumenism either.

In November 1994 Pope John Paul II said in his Apostolic Letter for the Jubilee of the Year 2000 (Tertio Millennio Adveniente): "Ecclesial communion has been painfully wounded" and "the Church should invoke the Holy Spirit with even greater insistence, imploring...the grace of Christian Unity."

Jesuit priest and life-long ecumenist Michael Hurley, S.J. suggests that lack of progress in resolving ecumenical issues may be due in large part to lack of vision and lack of initiative. In his book "Christian Unity: An Ecumenical Second Spring" he says that "for the most part the ecumenical spirit...is conspicuous by its absence in the life of the Church."

There is an onus on parishes to educate their members in the ecumenical spirit and the annual Church Unity Octave, while welcome, is not nearly enough. Fr. Hurley makes a radical suggestion which he calls "ecumenical tithing". He suggests withdrawing some of the time, money, energies and services, including worship, that we devote to our own Church and instead devote them to other Churches!

During the past year a genuine attempt was made here in

Ballinaspaig Parish to at least understand some of the other Christian Churches. Maybe this is the time to progress ecumenism a little further along the lines put forward by Fr. Hurley?

## Pastoral Council News

**"The times are not favourable but they are the times we have"**

The first meeting of 2001 took place on Monday 15th January. The members resumed discussion, begun at our December meeting, on how best the council could serve the needs of our parish during its term of office, and to establish immediate and long-term objectives.

It was decided to proceed with each council member arranging a meeting with the contact people of an area and together with the priest of the area to discuss the needs and potential of the parish community for the next three years. Such meetings are to be completed by Easter, hopefully.

A wide ranging and informative discussion followed on the task of leading our young teenagers to experience the Good News of Jesus and enabling them to commit themselves to Him in action and worship. While the difficulties involved were articulated, there was a real sense that this is one of the most serious challenges facing the parish community today. Those of us present noted the call of our parish priest, Fr. Tom Clancy - "The times are not favourable but they are the times we have."



### Crib Box Collection

Yielded £710 for the needy in our parish. Thank you.

### Found

Bracelet in Magazine Road area. Ring 4541712.

### Threshold

Threshold, the housing charity are in the process of opening a charity shop at Unit 5, Ballincollig Shopping Centre, West Village, Ballincollig. They rely on the generosity of people to donate stock to the shop and will deeply appreciate the donation of everyday household items and clothing from your homes. Contact 4877251. Threshold offers free housing advice and information and also half-way housing at Gilabbey Court.



### Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle

The monthly recital will resume on Wednesday next 24th January at 3.00 p.m. in the Crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross, when Michael Cotter will present an afternoon of glorious music, and everyone is welcome to attend.

### Computer Courses

At Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh. Wordprocessing, database, spreadsheet, beginners and intermediate. Details from the school, tel. 4543790. Registration on Thursday 25th January, 7.30-9.30 p.m.

### Bishopstown I.C.A.

Meeting next Thursday 25th in S.M.A. Hall, Wilton at 8 p.m. New members welcome.



### Journeying with Paul

The theology of Paul for our time. Eight Thursday evenings, 8.00-10.00, beginning January 24 at Dominican Centre, Pope's Quay. £40 wages, £20 unwaged. Contact 4502067.

### Light Out of Darkness Cork Group

Invites you to the annual day of prayer and reflection (including Mass of the day) at St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore, on Sunday 28th January from 10.00 to 5.30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Sr. Anne O'Leary, PVBM, and Fr. Tom Clancy, P.P. Everyone welcome. To book please phone 4502520 or write to The Secretary, St. Dominic's Retreat House. Early booking advisable.

### Readings for Sunday 4 February

Is.6:1-2,3-8; Ps. 137;  
1 Cor.15:1-11; Luk.5:1-11.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**