

2nd December 2001



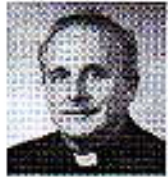
No. 697

Ballineaspais Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent



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



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

ALONE OR TOGETHER

In recent decades achievement, measured largely by financial reward, has rapidly become the yardstick of success. The autonomous high-flyer is not only lauded but is paraded as the sole role model for happiness. One result is that our sense of belonging to a wider family and community has given way to an edgy stressed-out individualism. There is intense pressure especially on the young person to make it on one's own. Such an atmosphere is an insidious cancer nibbling away at the fabric of our society.

Side by side with this phenomenon, there is a growing unease about the quality of our connectedness with each other. We can ignore this unease and continue to isolate our lives as families and as individuals more and more. Or we can reflect on our interdependency as human beings and build happiness on a cornerstone of inclusive care, care for each other and care for our environment. The crucial choice is whether to focus on our individual rights and lone ranger lifestyles, or on being part of a wider community through participation and service.

Advent is an opportunity to focus on the choice we make and its consequences. The coming of Jesus was clearly a choice of

relationships, rather than responses, of attachment rather than autonomy, of commitment rather than convenience, of giving rather than grasping. It was a choice of happiness through enabling love rather than controlling power. We are invited to imitate his choice.

LOCAL NEWS

Well done to the Kenley Under 11 Football team, who recently won the Street League Competition at Bishopstown GAA Club. The team is drawn from the area between Dennehy's Cross and Melbourn Road (and beyond!). The boys beat the Curraheen team by two points in a nail-biting encounter.

Congratulations to Victoria Village and Court on winning First Prize in the Tidy Districts Competition run by Cork Corporation.

AFGHANISTAN

Thank You Again

Final Figure

£8,000

CELEBRATIONS ON THE DOUBLE

Congratulations to our organist, Paddy Killeen, on his recent double triumph.

Last Sunday he was a worthy finalist in the *RTE Radio 1 Church Music Competition*, celebrating 75 Years of RTE Radio. Two of his works – a new Mass for the feast of Christ the King and a choral setting of a passage from the Gospel of St. John – were selected for the prestigious final, broadcast live from All Hallows College Chapel. The concert featured original new work from the very best composers of Irish Church music, drawn from over a hundred entries.

On this first Sunday of Advent Paddy and many members of the Choir are in Vienna to participate in the famous annual Advent Choral Festival. Our choir sings at the Christmas Market on Saturday and on Sunday they perform the Mass of St. Francis, composed by Paddy, in one of the old Viennese churches. On Sunday evening they will combine with other choirs from around the world to sing Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* in the Vienna Town Hall, where the composition was first performed. This tour promises to be as exciting as their previous visits to Lourdes, Wales and France.



Rest in Peace

Sarah Marrett, 109 Leesdale, Model Farm Road, had been in failing health for some years, yet her death came quite unexpectedly on Wednesday 14th November. Sarah had been in and out of hospital on different occasions, but in spite of her different ailments, she retained a great spirit, and made a pilgrimage to Lourdes last August, and later made the journey to Our Lady's Island in Wexford for the devotions there. A large crowd attended the Rosary, Removal and Funeral Mass at the Church of the Holy Spirit. We join them in expressing our sincere sympathy to her husband Tommy, son Frank, daughters Christine and June, her brothers, sisters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and her many relatives and friends. May she rest in peace.

God promises a safe landing but not a calm passage.

Bulgarian proverb

CORE BUSINESS

Nurturing key relationships is central to Christmas celebrations. Genuine gifts are expressions of thanks and of good wishes. Sometimes, they are apologies for hurts inflicted, vulnerabilities exploited, promises betrayed or commitments dishonoured.

Such reconciliation among family, friends, colleagues and neighbours is the core business of this Advent time. Without such bridge building, the festivities cannot be authentic. The temptation is to postpone the new beginning, afraid it will not work out. To let the opportunities of the season of goodwill slip by unheeded is foolish beyond compare. Our relationship with God needs attention also. There is no need to worry about how it will work out. He has forgiven us already. He just wants us home to reassure us of his enduring love for us.

The communal celebration of this love in this parish will be this weekend fortnight when our Reconciliation Service will be at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday 16th December. Come and collect God's gift to you of forgiveness and inner peace. *Bí linn*. Bring a friend or, better still, bring the family.



LOCAL SCHOOLS

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh

Twelve students have been celebrating their great success in winning the Millfield Chess Championships in Britain. The players had a great response from the business community in Wilton and Bishopstown in their school draw which raised enough funds to reduce greatly their transport and accommodation costs. A big thanks to all who contributed and helped. The team captain has described the win as one of the great moments in his school chess career, almost as big as winning the All Ireland in May.

Two students were recently presented with first prize in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Web competition. This was a national competition, where students were invited to design a website on the theme *Chemistry is Everywhere*.

St. Catherine's National School

Once again, we have won a prize in the Tidy Schools competition coming third this year. Well done to Mrs. Griffin's 3rd class from last year and 4th class this year, who have spent their lunch breaks looking after the flowers, trees and vegetables, and who have learned a lot about gardening from their activities. A big "thank you" to our caretaker Joe for all his help.

Congratulations to Kate McCutcheon, 6th class, who once again gained first place in the Australian Maths Competition and Logo contests, under the guidance of Mr. Moynihan at C.S.N.

Consider the postage stamp; its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.

Josh Billings

Bible Corner



IN THE TEMPLE'S SHADOW

Isaiah was a city boy, born in Jerusalem about 800 years before the coming of Jesus. He lived under the shadow of the Temple at the centre of Jewish life in difficult times both religiously and politically. He was called to speak God's messages of reprimand, challenge, encouragement and hope throughout his life. At that time, there were no books as we know them, but Isaiah's teachings were kept alive in a little community of committed disciples who handed them on from generation to generation. Eventually, when the Hebrew Scriptures were written, they filled four scrolls, of which one was called the Scroll of the prophet Isaiah. This was the scroll that was handed to Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth, one weekend when he went back home during the earliest days of his public ministry. Each weekend of this Advent our first reading at Mass is taken from the very same scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Such is the enduring power of the Word of the Lord.



LETTER

Dear Editor,

Falling Leaves

Let's all get out a brush and sweep up leaves in front of our homes. Be proud of our area. Show we care. Maybe save a person from falling on wet rotted leaves. It's good exercise. Let's all try.

Name and address with Editor



First Friday

Next Friday, 7th December, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 7th December from 10.30 to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 6th in the C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection

The Christmas collection will take place on 8th/9th December. Please give generously.

Advent Devotions

There will be Rosary and Benediction on Sunday 2nd December at 5.00 p.m.

Cork University Hospital Radio

107.8 F.M. Mass is broadcast at the following times:

Monday-Friday: 12 noon

Saturday: 12 noon and 7.15 p.m.

Sunday: 10.00 a.m.

Feast Days This Week

December 3rd St. Francis Xavier was one of the first Jesuits. A native of Pampelona in Spain, he studied at the University of Paris. He went as a missionary to India and Japan and had extraordinary success in winning thousands over to Christ. He died in 1552 at the age of 46 and was made Patron of the Foreign Missions by Pope Pius X.

December 6th St. Nicholas, called the Great, was Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor and was famous for his defence of the true faith against the Arians and also for many miracles he wrought. "Santa Claus" is derived from his name on account of his unobtrusive acts of generosity to young people in need. He died around 340.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

The Peace Movement is holding a **Fund Raising Concert** at Aula Maxima, U.C.C. on Friday 7th at 7.45 p.m. Adm. £7. concessions £5.

Enrolment Week for Glasheen schools takes place from 3rd to 7th December. Tel 4544750 (B) and 4542294 (G)

Craft Fair on Sunday 9th from 10.00 – 5.00 p.m. in the L'Arche Community, Le Cheile, Togher Road. Candles, clocks, woven goods, Christmas cards, CD racks and many more goods.

NEXT WEEKEND

Next Saturday, 8th December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holyday. Please note the mid morning Mass on Saturday will be at 10.30 a.m.

MASSES

Vigil Mass Friday 7th at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 8th at 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 12.15 p.m., and 6.15 p.m.

Sunday 9th at 9.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 12.15 p.m.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 9th December

First Reading:

Is.11:1-10. The vision of the peace that will come when all people worship the one God is outlined.

Psalm 71.

Second Reading:

Rom.15:4-9. Paul reminds us that the scriptures were written to teach about God's promises.

Gospel:

Mt.3:1-12. John the Baptist's call to repentance.