

9th December 2001



No. 698

Ballineaspig Bulletin



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

Second Sunday of Advent



FROM OUR
PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

MARY'S DREAM – THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – REVISITED

I know many of our readers have wonderful gifts of memory. Even allowing for that, I doubt if anyone could recall the piece I wrote for the Ballineaspig Bulletin on the Second Sunday of Advent 1991. Neither could I. However, I came across a copy of that Bulletin during the week - and wherever I got the idea that inspired it - I thought it was worth retelling. It was a fantasy - Mary recalling a dream she had to her husband Joseph.

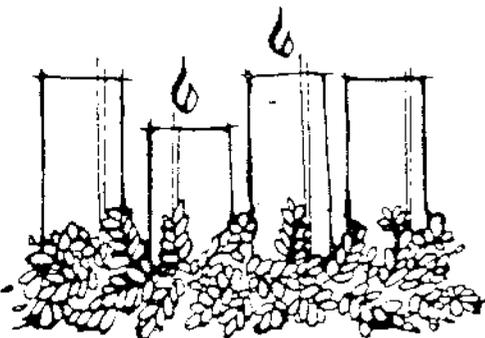
"I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it properly, nor recall it fully. I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. People had been preparing for it for weeks. They decorated the house, bought new clothes and elaborate gifts. It was strange though, because the gifts were not for our

Son. They wrapped them in fancy paper, tied up with lovely bows, and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree Joseph, right in the middle of the house. They had decorated the tree also with sparkling ornaments. Oh, it was really beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. But this puzzled me - they gave the gifts to each other, not to our Son. This saddened me. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned the name. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus, not to be wanted at his own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real."

Have a lovely Christmas - lots of love and happiness to everybody. But let's not forget to give a place in our hearts and our homes to our Guest of Honour - whose birthday we celebrate.

Laura C. Lennon

Second Sunday of Advent



RECONCILIATION SERVICE

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER

4.30 P.M.

The first duty of love is to listen.

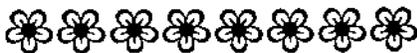
Paul Tillich

Second Sunday of Advent

To live without hope is the greatest human poverty. For many who live even in the midst of the greatest hardship, the ray of hope is kept alive by the love of those around them and by the love of God they experience through their neighbours. On the other hand, some who are so wealthy that their Christmas present will be the one advertised "for the person who has everything", live in prisons of despair without hope in anyone, least of all in themselves. In between, there is an endless rainbow of hopes and despairs in all our hearts. On the world canvas, there is so little to be hopeful about. Why hope?

We hope because of God's promises and their fulfilment. As we hear on Sunday, He promised to send a saviour and He sent His Son. The Son promised that the Spirit of God would make a home in our hearts enabling us to share friendship with God in a way that enables us to grow in loving service to each other. This is the reason for our hope. Recognising His presence in others, responding to it in so many little ways, keeps hope alive. A person of hope lives forever. One without hope dies a thousand deaths each day.

Sunday's gospel challenges us to prepare a way for the Lord by keeping hope alive in our world today.



UINI SWINDA T L W
UINI S U I V H I A N I U

We offer our sincere sympathy to ROSE KIELY, Bishops Court Hill, and DR. JIM McKENNA, Glasheen Road, on the death of their mother.

An Invitation from the Pope Friday 14th December

The Pope is inviting each one of us individually and as a community to make next Friday a day of fasting and prayer for peace. Fasting by choice is the privilege of the well fed. The poor and hungry fast of necessity. As one of the best fed peoples in the world, the Pope's invitation should strike a chord in our hearts. Fasting by choice is an act of solidarity with the starving throughout the world. The discomfort involved will give us a glimpse of what some of our brothers and sisters endure day after day without hope of relief. Hopefully, it will awaken generosity in our hearts to those in need. Alerted to how well off we are, it will evoke deep prayer of thanksgiving to God for all his blessings to us, as well as deep prayer of intercession for all who will be hungry and homeless throughout the world this Christmas and this wintertime. R.S.V.P. to Pope John Paul II through Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, SHARE, or a needy neighbour. Thank you. In this parish, with our Reconciliation Service coming up on Sunday next, Friday's day of prayer could be an intercession for the grace of reconciliation for all who are estranged from God, from family, from neighbour. Pray for peace, inner peace, family peace, world peace.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Mount Mercy

Hockey News: Congratulation to Audrey O'Flynn, Clare Finnegan, Julia O'Halloran and Jean Long who were members of the Munster U.16 team that won the inter-provincial championships. Julia and Jean have also been selected for trials for Ireland. Well done to everyone.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MASS AT 12.15 - SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER

ALL ARE WELCOME

Every child is invited to perhaps bring a non-perishable
food item (no toys) for the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
and or take part in the
singing and readings of the Mass. Rehearsals are on
Thursday 13th December at 6 p.m.
and
Saturday 15th December at 2.00 p.m.





Bible Corner



PREPARING HEARTS AND HOMES

Have you seen our Jesse Tree near the front door of the church? The Jesse Tree recalls highlights of how God prepared the chosen people for the coming of Christ. It chooses stories and symbols from the bible stretching from the creation of the world to Mary's giving birth to Emmanuel, Christ our Saviour.

In our homes such a tree would remind us of our heritage and our history as God's chosen people. With guidance, children could learn a great deal in preparing this tree. For them and for all of us, the distractions are many. The celebrations are varied. Extravagances are everywhere except among the homeless poor, the alone people and the sick. The advertising is attractive and relentless. The risk is that Christmas will leave us unchanged spiritually and what a loss that will be. The symbolic stories of the Jesse Tree could alert us to the realities of our faith.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 16th December

First Reading:

Is.35:1-6,10. Isaiah looks forward to the time when the blind will see and the lame will walk.

Psalm 145

Second Reading:

Jm. 5:7-10. James reminds us to be patient, that the Lord's coming in glory will be soon.

Gospel:

Mt.11:2-11. Today's gospel reminds us what Isaiah prophesied came to pass in the life of Jesus.



Parish NEWS

Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend.

The Giving Tree Project

Please support The Society of St. Vincent de Paul *Giving Tree* at Merchants Quay Shopping Centre from December 1st to 24th. The gifts will make a difference to needy children this Christmas.

Irish Catholic

A series of articles on Advent is currently being published in the newspaper.

Bone Health and Diet

The Nutritional Sciences division of UCC are carrying out research looking at the relationships between food, nutrition and health, with an emphasis on osteoporosis and the use of vitamin D. In Spring 2002 a study will begin and 50/75 year old women are being recruited as volunteers. Further details can be had from Maria O'Brien at 4903394, mobile No: 086-8205688, Email: Maria.obrien@ucc.ie.

Alzheimer Society

Carers' support meeting on Monday 10th December at 8 p.m. in Jurys Hotel.

Edel House

Church gate collection next weekend.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940