

16th December 2001



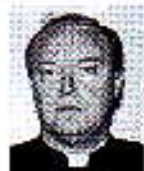
Ballineaspaig Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent



No. 699

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



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Pat writes

There are many gifts given at Christmas. Perhaps the greatest gift we can give to another is acceptance. When we reject another person we seek really to destroy them. When we are rejected by God we are literally in Hell. The Sacrament of Confession is there to show us that we are never rejected by God, but accepted and loved by him. So, give yourself the gift of God's acceptance of you this Christmas. Come to the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confession this Sunday at 4.30 p.m. and then you will be able to pass that gift on to others who need it so badly from you.

Patrick Walsh

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

TODAY SUNDAY

4.30 P.M.

Come and as a community, give thanks
to the Lord for His mercy and love.

Bí linn.



Christmas Family Mass

A quick reminder about the Family Mass being held in the Church of the Holy Spirit on Sunday December 16th at 12.15pm. You are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

WELCOME

WELCOME HOME

Next weekend, many members of families in the parish will have returned home for Christmas. We extend a warm welcome to each and every one of them. On Sunday next, December 23rd, after the 12.15 p.m. Mass, we welcome the homecomers, their families, and any other visitors who may be among us, to come to the Crypt for a cup of tea and to renew old friendships or to forge new ones among the regulars at our parish Mass. Please drop in and bring the visitor.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh

Congratulations to sixth year student Shane O'Farrell who recently came joint first in the Irish Physics Olympiad held in D.C.U.

The 2001 Christmas Food Appeal in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is currently underway. Last year over £700 worth of food was collected.

A Table Quiz for Transition Year students held this week raised £120 for Third World charity Self Help International.

The Under 16 hurlers have qualified for the final of the Cork Colleges Competition. Best of luck to the boys, most of whom will be playing in Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the first time.



St. Vincent de Paul

We would like to thank all who contributed over the year. £25,303.25 was raised and distributed to the needy.

Thank You

Michéal Ó Haodain and Bishopstown Neighbour Watch acknowledge receipt of the generous contribution of £53.50 from Woodlawn residents for the security of the elderly apparatus.



Discipleship in Advent

To follow Jesus, in other words, is to follow the one who turns the world upside down, even the religious world. It is a tipsy arrangement at the very least. People with high need for approval, social status, and public respectability need not apply. "Following Jesus" is a circuitous route that leads always and everywhere to places where a 'nice' person would not go, to moments of integrity we would so much rather do without. The Christian carries a world view that cries for fulfilment now. Christian discipleship is not preparation for the hereafter or an ecstatic distance from the present. Christian discipleship is the commitment to live a certain way now.

Sister Joan Chittister





In Appreciation

Congratulations to parishioner BERTIE O'HANLON who was one of a select number of people who were awarded medals for membership of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for over fifty years, at a well attended ceremony at Maryborough House Hotel.



My Christmas Card List

I have a list of folks I know
all written in a book,
and every year when Christmas comes,
I go and take a look.
And that is when I realise
that these names are a part
not of the book they're written in,
but really of my heart.
For each name stands for someone
who has crossed my path sometime,
and in that meeting they've become
the rhythm of each rhyme.

And whether I have known you
for many years or few,
in some ways you've had a part
in shaping things I do.
And every year when Christmas comes
I realise anew,
the best gift life can offer,
is meeting folks like you.
So may the spirit of Christmas
that forever endures,
leave its richest blessing
in the hearts of you and yours.

Bible Corner



At Mass this weekend, the mention of Lebanon will recall feelings of anxiety and pride in many Irish families who sent troops to build peace in that war-torn land. Decades of television pictures of sun drenched arid terrain, dotted with military posts, have made it difficult for us to imagine it as the beautiful cultivated land that Isaiah suggests it was in his time. Indeed, Isaiah promised his people that the coming of the Lord would bring glory like Lebanon's to their own barren lands. The promise of such a miracle was to restore hope, to give courage, to remain fruitful.

Isaiah may have been viewing his surroundings through rose-tinted glasses when he refers to the splendour of Carmel and Sharon. True enough, Mount Carmel is a majestic promontory rising from the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, but Sharon seems to always have been a marshy plain with little cultivation. Whatever about the validity of the imagery, there is no doubt about the clarion call to prepare for the coming of the Lord who brings everlasting joy.



We offer our sincere sympathy to HELEN KENNEALLY, 28 Leesdale, on the death of her mother.



CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 22nd: 12.00-1.00, 4.00-5.00, after 6.15 p.m. Mass

Christmas Eve 24th: 12.00-1.00, 4.00-5.00, after 6.15 p.m. Mass.

MASSES:

Saturday 22nd: Vigil 6.15 p.m.

Sunday 23rd: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Christmas Eve: **Vigil 6.15 p.m., Midnight Mass at 12.00

Christmas Day: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

Stephen's Day and each weekday up to and including New Year's Day:

Mass each day at 10.00 a.m.

** N.B. 6.15 p.m. Mass restored.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Church of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 16th at 4.30 p.m.

The Lough

Sunday 16th at 5.00 p.m.

S.M.A. Wilton

Monday 17th at 7.30 p.m.

Curraheen

Wednesday 19th at 8.00 p.m.

Sacred Heart

Thursday 20th at 8.00 p.m.

(Confessions all day on this Thursday)

Parish Dues

Many parishioners have returned their envelopes either directly or through our dedicated collectors. Your contribution to the support of the priests is very much appreciated. Remaining contributions can be given to any of the priests or dropped into the sacristy. Many thanks.

Carols for All

At St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Friday 21st at 8.00 p.m. and Sunday 23rd at 3.30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 23rd December

First Reading:

Is. 7:10-14. Contains Isaiah's prophecy of the events we celebrate at Christmas, words repeated in today's Gospel.

Psalm 23

Second Reading:

Rom. 1:1-7. Paul begins his letter to the Romans by summing up the message of Advent and Christmas.

Gospel:

Mt. 1:18-24. Matthew tells us some things that happened before the birth of Jesus.