

6th January 2002



Ballinacspais Bulletin

The Epiphany of the Lord



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
CENNEHY'S CROSS, DORK

No. 701



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

Christmas Rush is Over Have we Omitted HIM?

At this stage the Christmas rush is just like a blur at the back of our minds. Perhaps you feel the guilt of having omitted a present or forgotten a card, or even the hurt that someone failed to think of you. Today, we have the men who started the first Christmas rush, and who gave the first gifts at Christmas, the three wise men. Their gifts were 'spot on': gold because he was King, frankincense because he was God and myrrh because he was a man who would die. Their giving was an act of perfect worship. Such adoration and worship challenges us as to our response to God. Have we omitted **Him**? How do we respond to his total giving of himself to us?

Patrick Walsh

Bible Study

Matthew's Gospel
Tuesday 8th January
8.00 p.m.
C.P. Centre

The gospel emphasises the teachings of Jesus more than his miracles, meshing together his origins and his destiny. To explore Matthew's gospel a small group of readers and others interested has begun to meet for an hour or so, once or twice a month. The next meeting is on next Tuesday January 8th in the C.P. Centre. Fr. Tom Clancy will lead the group at the moment. All are very welcome. Please bring a Bible or a New Testament, if convenient.

Overheard before Christmas....

Anxious lady shopping in city centre:

"This Euro will be the death of me."

Passing friend: "Don't worry, that won't come in here at all. It's only for the Dublin 4 crowd."

**Please take a copy of
the Bulletin home
or give it to a
friend or neighbour.**



ALL ABOUT ANGELS

Angels Guard Thee

It was a worrying and difficult time for the family. The father was now totally blind and the family income had dried up. The mother, trying to keep the wolf from the door, was now working for other families. Their only son, anxious to help, agrees to travel to a wealthy cousin to collect a long-standing debt. The problem was that it was a dangerous journey and he was totally unfamiliar with the route.

His father, a man of great faith, whose life had been marked with acts of charity, called his son. "Go into town and look for someone who knows the way. If you succeed, tell him we will pay him well when you both return."

A stranger approaches the young man and offers to help, claiming that he is familiar with the proposed journey. After meeting with the father, the pair set off. What the son and father don't know is that the stranger is an angel – Raphael, on a mission from God to help the family.

It's a true story with a romantic and happy ending, not from Hollywood but from the Bible, the Book of Tobit (Tobias) in the Old Testament. Why not read it?

What Do We Know of Angels?

Because we do not see them and know little about them many, including Christians no longer believe in them. Yet, they do exist; their existence is a truth of faith. When we recite the Creed at Mass, we affirm our belief in the angelic creation: "We believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen." The unseen covers the angelic creation

Our belief in the existence of angels is based on Scripture and on the tradition of the Catholic Church. The many references

to angels in sacred scripture provides firm evidence of their existence.

Who Are They?

The word angel comes from the Greek "Angelos" which means messenger. One of the functions of angels then was to be servants and messengers of God. We find one of the best examples of this when the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary at Nazareth (Luke 1:11-25).

The nature of angels is that of bodiless spiritual beings with high intelligence and free will. Just like us humans with our immortal souls, they are immortal, once created they live forever, unchanged by time. They can clearly assume bodily form when necessary in order to carry out God's missions. We are used to the imagery of angels depicted with wings – in reality being pure spirits, they have no wings, yet artists down the ages always show them with wings. This is possibly to distinguish them from humans and also to show the swiftness of their intellectual energy. Angels and the visible created order were both created together at the beginning of time. The primary reason for angelic existence, like that of the universe as a whole, is to share in the glory of God. We read in the scriptures time and again, "Bless the Lord all you His angels (e.g. Psalms 103.20, 148-2). Their life is one of ceaseless adoration before God, worshipping and paying homage.

Arthur O'Callaghan

More about angels next week.





Rest in Peace

Diarmuid Keane, Wilton Road, died at C.U.H. on Sunday morning 23rd December 2001. Even though Diarmuid was living in the parish for only a few months, he had been a frequent worshipper here over the years from his home on College Road where he had the Post Office and a shop. Through his business there, he was well known and respected by a wide circle of neighbours and generations of university students and staff. Diarmuid lived in England for some years before coming to College Road, but he never lost his deep appreciation for his roots among the people of Farran, Ovens and Cloughdub. The representative attendance of family and friends from home territories showed that his appreciation was reciprocated. His love of hurling and his skill at the sport was shown not only by the hurley and sliotar on his coffin, but by the presence of old Cloughdub colleagues, and former team-mates from the North Monastery, with whom he won two Harty Cup medals. He will be sadly missed. To his wife Margaret, his children Gerardine, John, Barry and their spouses, his grandchildren, his brother, sister and to the wider family, we offer our deepest sympathy. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sé.

*Think of me as withdrawn to dimness
- yours still - you mine. Remember the
best of our past moments and forget
the rest. And so where I gently wait
- come gently on.*

Bible Corner



Looking forward in 2002, we see Matthew's gospel in possession on most Sundays of the year ahead. This account of the life and sayings of Jesus was written at a time of persecution for the early church. Within the church itself, there were two groups that had some difficulty in accepting each other's genuineness. Firstly, there were the original believers who were Jews but who had come to believe in Jesus. For them, it was still crucially important to put the emphasis on Christ as a Jewish prophet, the promised Messiah. Every aspect of his Jewishness had to be remembered and acknowledged. But they were being swamped by newer converts who were not as interested in his Jewish roots but looked to him as Son of God and Saviour. Matthew's gospel tries to balance both aspects of who Jesus truly is.

God's Stairway

Step by step we climb day by day
Closer to God with each prayer we pray
For the cry of the heart offered in prayer
Becomes just another spiritual stair
In the heavenly staircase leading us to
A beautiful place where we live anew . . .
So never give up for it's worth the climb
To live forever in endless time
Where the soul of man is safe and free
To live in love through eternity.



NOTICE BOARD

Friendship Club

Meetings will resume on Monday 14th January at 2.30 p.m. in C.P. Centre.



Alzheimer Society

Carers' support meeting on Monday 14th January at 8 p.m. in Jurys Hotel.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 13th January

First Reading:

Is.42:1-4,6-7. Christians identify the servant described by Isaiah with Christ and the Church.

Psalm 28

Second Reading:

Acts. 10:34-38. Peter recalls how Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and the difference that made.

Gospel:

Mt. 3:13-17. The events celebrated in today's feast are described by St. Matthew.

Wanted: More people to inspire others with confidence, fewer to throw cold water on anyone taking even one step in the right direction.

More to point out what's right with the world, fewer to keep harping on what's wrong with the world.

More to be interested in lighting candles, fewer in blowing them out.

**Adult
Education**

Open Day for Adult Learners

On Wednesday 16th January, Cork Institute of Technology is hosting an information session for adults who are interested in returning to education. Session 1: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Session 2: 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Further information from Mary Pat O'Connor at 4326804 or e-mail to openday@cit.ic.

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