



Ballinaspais Bulletin

13th January 2002



No. 702

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



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

Year's end and New Year were marked by road tragedies for several families and communities. Apart from freak accidents, deaths on the road remind each one of us of our obligation to be more carefully competent and courteous to protect others' lives, as well as our own. Have we the courage to alert each other to the hazard we may sometimes be to ourselves and to others? Risk taking on the road can never be justified, but risk taking by telling the truth, in praise or warning, is essential to our well-being and to the good of family and wider community. Oftentimes, there may be no immediate gain; indeed, only immediate pain by speaking the word of truth. Yet, the failure to speak is a failure in friendship and love. For some of us, it may be our greatest failure.

To speak the truth in love is a New Year's resolution that could enrich our every relationship at home, at work, at school. It may be more remembered in the breach than in its fulfilment but it is the challenge facing every follower of Jesus at one time or another.

To help another in love to see the truth about themselves is a sisterly or brotherly kindness beyond compare. To help one another to see the truth about God's love for us and the consequences of that love is a blessing that we neglect to our cost.

We could speak the truth in love (in praise and encouragement), more frequently, and then the word of warning might follow more gently and more fruitfully.

Tom Lohoney

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD SOLUTION



46 entries were submitted of which 24 were all correct.

Ruth Murray, 14 Kenley Close and **John Waldron**, Wilton Road, were drawn for a prize.

ALL ABOUT ANGELS

Continuing our article on Angels....

There are a number of instances in the Old Testament when angels provided people with the means of survival. It was angels who, for forty years, provided the Jews with manna during their journey to the Land of Canaan (Ex.16, Ps.78.25). An angel stops Abraham's arm just as he is about to kill his son, Isaac (Gen.22:12). It was an angel who closed the mouths of the hungry lions when King Darius had thrown Daniel into the lion pit. "My God sent his angel and shut the lion's mouth because I was blameless before him." (Dan.6.22).

The New Catechism teaches that angels belong to Christ. They were created through and for Him as were all created things and He has involved them in His plan of salvation. On a number of occasions He spoke of angels, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him" (Matt.25.31). On Holy Thursday night, as He was about to be seized, he declared, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt.26.54). The angels express profound veneration and adoration before Christ.

The whole night sky is lit up with their presence as with inexpressible joy they sing to the watching shepherds "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2-14). They protect Him in His infancy (Matt.1-2), act as guides in the flight into Egypt, come to minister to Jesus after He is tempted (Matt. 4-11) and rejoice over the conversion of one sinner

(Luke15.10). They are angered at bad example given to children, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that, in Heaven, their angels always behold the face of my father." (Matt.18.10) - immortal words which associate the innocence of children with the purity of angels.

The church in her teaching has always proclaimed devotion to the angels. Catholic theology teaches that every human being, regardless of age, race or sex has a Guardian Angel to watch over them. However, it's not only babies and children who are in need of the protection and help of angels, but teenagers and adults, perhaps even more so.

By acknowledging a personal conviction of their existence, we can enter into a deeper relationship, through faith, with our Guardian Angel. The prayer, "O Angel of God..." should always be part of our daily prayers. On October 2nd, we celebrate the Feast of the Guardian Angels. The beautiful opening prayer of the Mass puts it well. "God our Father, in your loving providence, you send your holy angels to watch over us, hear our prayers, defend us always by their protection and let us share your life with them forever."

Arthur O'Callaghan

Final instalment next week.





Bible Corner



A HERO BOWS OUT

A sign of true greatness is to know when to stand aside and to leave centre stage to the new boy on the block. Few enough can do it enthusiastically. Fewer still see their role in life as preparing for the coming of one more important than oneself. John the Baptist had such an insight into his vocation in life. He was clear that his role was to get his own people ready for the coming of the long promised Messiah even though he had no idea from where such a Messiah would come. Imagine his surprise when he realised that this Chosen One of God was his own cousin from Nazareth. John was ready to bow out straight away, but Jesus had one further job for him to do, as we read in this weekend's gospel. John was later executed for his fidelity to his calling. No wonder Jesus said, "Of all those born of woman, there is none greater than John". What a recommendation!

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Mrs. Margaret Doyle, Bishopstown Avenue West, left us for Heaven on 28th December - the Feast of the Holy Innocents. It's many a long day since she left the place she was born, that beautiful countryside near Clonakilty (Ballinascorthy/Clogagh). She worked hard all her life, but found happiness and fulfilment in helping others, as well as doing her exquisite crochet work, which she kept at to the end. We extend our sincere sympathy to her dear son Pat, her grandchildren, Wendy, Lisa, Rhonda and Tony, as well as her many friends.

Have a Priest in Your Family It only costs €3 a Week

This is a message from Latin America where many good, deserving qualified boys lack the necessary means and cannot give their vocation a try. And this is where you come in. Are you willing to give financial assistance to help a young man realise his dream?

Adopt one of these young men, and have your priest who will pray for you daily, correspond with you regularly and whose priesthood studies you can help to pay for, with as little as €3 a week; the boy himself pays a little and we complete the cost of his board and tuition and other expenses with donations from our benefactors. Persons of means may prefer a pledge of €1200 which gives a participation in all his training.

Your contribution will mean another priest for God, your priest, and you will share in the blessings of the work you make possible. Our missionaries are your ambassadors to the poor. Have a share of the church's missionary merits. Write to us for more information. Fr. John Porter, Don Bosco College, Box 2303, Quite, Ecuador, S. A. Donations appreciated c/o Bank of Ireland, Tallagh, Dublin.


THANK YOU

We would like to express our gratitude to Nangles Nurseries who supplied us with the shrubs for our church crib.

Announcements



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Dominican Centre, Pope's Quay

Meditation with Julian of Norwich, Donagh O'Shea, OP, on Mondays, 8.00-10.00 p.m. Jan. 14th to Feb. 18th. Reflection on passages of Julian's *Shewings* followed by silent meditation.

The Theology of Vatican II

Ref. Gearóid Dullea, Thurs. 8.00-10.00 p.m. Jan. 24th to Feb 25th. An exploration of this landmark event and the impact the documents have had on the life of the Church.

Words for Wisdom, Anne Francis. Tues. 8.00-10.00 p.m. Jan. 29th to March 5th. Writing creatively to deepen our spiritual journey.

BISHOPSTOWN SOCIAL CENTRE WILTON PARK HOUSE

For older people in our community

Monday 14th January 2.00-4.30 p.m.
Exercises continue with Una Hayward.

Tuesday 15th January, 2.00-4.30 p.m.
Cards - 45 Club - Beginners welcome

Wednesday 16th Jan. 2.00-4.30 p.m.
Social afternoon - Respite for carers.
Housebound welcome. Transport provided if required - ring 43448595, Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30.

Spring Evening Classes

Enrolments will take place at the following:

Bishopstown Community School on Wednesday 16th from 7.00 to 8.30 p.m. Information evening and enrolment for E.C.D.L. on Monday 14th at 7 p.m.

Colaiste Stiófain Naofa, Tramore Road on Tuesday 15th from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m. Wednesday 6th, Thursday 17th and Friday, 18th from 1.30 to 4.00 p.m.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 20th January

First Reading:

Is.49:3,5-6. God's Chosen One will bring salvation to all peoples.

Psalm 39

Second Reading:

1 Cor. 1:1-3. Includes the very start of Paul's first letter to the people of Corinth.

Gospel:

Jn.1:29-34. John the Baptist introduces Jesus to us as the Lamb of God, the chosen One.

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Bishopstown I.C.A.

Meetings will resume on Thursday 17th January at the S.M.A. Centre Wilton, at 8 p.m. New members are welcome. On February 7th a RIEKI representative demonstrating the art of deep relaxation will be attending the meeting and outsiders are very welcome.

Who says there is no such thing as a free lunch??

Researchers in University College Cork are currently recruiting participants for a large study investigating the changes to food preferences that occur across the life span. Participants are needed in the following age groups: 20-35 yrs, 35-50 yrs, 51-60 yrs, 61-70 yrs, and over 70 yrs. *Not only will you get a free lunch, but you will also get paid for participating.*

If you are interested in participating in the most important European project ever carried out into food preferences across the lifespan, please contact Ciarán Forde or Christelle Michon at 4902845 or 4903688.