

8<sup>th</sup> December 2002



No. 739

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

# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Patrick writes*

## CHANGE

If an important guest is due to arrive, then preparations are necessary: change of timetable, something to eat, proper sleeping accommodation. When Jesus first came, John the Baptist was the one sent to prepare the way, to make the necessary arrangements. He told the people how crucial it was to change their lives for this most important of guests, the one before whom he was not worthy to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. In this season of Advent we are aware that the God we worship is the God who comes to us, into the very heart of our lives. The question is how willing am I to change my life to receive the Christ?

This question requires thought, reflection and prayer before we can begin to answer it. 'The Light Within', an Advent prayer reflection each Wednesday lunchtime, is an ideal space for such an activity. Come along and discover 'The Light Within'.

*Patrick O'Shea*

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth – that way the whole world would be blind and toothless.

# THE LIGHT WITHIN

GUIDED ADVENT PRAYER

by

FR. DONAGH O'SHEA O.P.

## "LOOK AGAIN"

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1.10 – 1.30 pm

Snack and chat afterwards

## Church of the Holy Spirit DENNEHY'S CROSS Light Within

An attentive congregation joined Fr. Donagh O'Shea, O.P. in the first session of The Light Within on Wednesday at 1.10 p.m. He reminded us of the origin of the Christian feast of Christmas and how the early Christians chose the pagan feast of the undefeated sun when the days began to lengthen to mark the coming of the Son of God into our world. He urged us to mortify our senses by disengaging from the many noisy distractions of modern times, especially during the approach to Christmas, and by a simpler and quieter lifestyle to regain a longing for the coming of Christ in our lives especially during this season of Advent. Fr. O'Shea led the prayers for that worthy objective. Next session Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> at 1.10 p.m.

T.J.W.

**Advent Devotions**  
Sundays at 5.00 p.m.

**Reconciliation Service**  
Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4.30 p.m.

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

**Pastoral Council**  
Meeting this Monday 9<sup>th</sup> in C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

**Bóthar Christmas Cards**  
Freephone Liz at 1800 268463 to request our Christmas cards. Cards are sent out free of charge. The voluntary donation you send us in return will greatly assist Bóthar's work in providing farm animals and training for poor families in 19 countries. Thank you.

**Christmas Concert**  
In St. Vincent's Church, Sunday's Well, featuring Ballincollig Concert Band, Colaiste Choilm Choir, singing, storytelling on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 8 p.m. in aid of new cancer unit, Mercy Hospital. Tickets €10 available from St. Vincent's Parish Office 4304070.

**Giving Tree Project**  
St. Vincent de Paul project at Merchant's Quay Shopping Centre from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> December – gifts will make a difference to needy children this Christmas.

**St. Fin Barre's Cathedral**  
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3.30 p.m. All welcome.

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

087 - 251 9940

Parish e-mail address:

**God's Word**

**Readings for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**First Reading:**  
Is.61:1-2,10-11. Isaiah's message forms the basis for the Magnificat, which follows it as the Responsorial Psalm.

**Psalm Lk. 1.**

**Second Reading:**  
1 Thess.5:16-24. We have plenty to be happy about, says St. Paul: God has called us, God will not fail us.

**Gospel:**  
Jn.1:6-8, 1928. John the Baptist is the focus of the Gospel again today, this time as described by St. John.

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Congratulations to **Victoria Village** on winning the cup in "Special Category" for the Tidy Districts Competition run by Cork Corporation. Well done to Phil O'Leary and Liz Howell who along with all the residents worked tirelessly to achieve this.

**Mount Mercy News**

Congratulations to **Jane Cunningham**, Leaving Cert. who was the Cork winner of the Michael Sweetnam Essay Competition organised by the European Movement and supported by the European Parliament. Jane's prize is a weekend in Strasbourg to participate in the European Parliament Euroscala Debate. Euroscala will be attended by young people from all E.U. member and applicant countries. This is Jane's fourth essay win. Well done, Jane!

With God on our side, who can be against us?



## Bible Corner



On Christmas Eve 1967, Martin Luther King, broadcasting to his oppressed people about a vision he had for them, quoted from the prophet Isaiah:

"Console my people, console them" says your God. "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for. He is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him."

This weekend's first reading is that same passage from Isaiah. Spoken originally to the exiled Hebrews, it awakened in them a hope that soon their oppression would be ended. Through the power of God, they would return to their homeland, free to make a fresh start in life. It is a reminder that God endures from age to age, caring for his people like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast. The image is a reassuring one with its message of joy and hope. The reality is that the Hebrews had then to venture out courageously from Babylon, carving out a new way of life in the promised land. The promise was stupendous but committed cooperation with the Lord was essential.

The same offer is made to us as was made to the Hebrews. The Lord is not slow to carry out his promises. He will lead us out of sin, addiction, selfishness, despair, jealousy, unforgiveness and fear into a new life of contentment, faith, peace and hope, if only we allow him and follow trustingly. Let us prepare a way for the Lord this Advent.



## Rest in Peace

The Community of Infant Jesus Sisters said their farewell to Sister Madeleine Lucey on 26<sup>th</sup> November after a short illness. She will be greatly missed by her loving family, relatives, friends and past pupils. Madeleine was well known in the parish community and she took a keen interest in all that was going on. Every First Friday afternoon she made her way to the church for an hour's adoration and on return entertained us with her observations and meetings with people. Her special ministry within the community was sacristan which was special to her because of her great devotion to the Eucharist. Her nephew Fr. Joe, a Salesian priest, concluded his homily thus: Madeleine, you were originally known as Bryde. May you now have come to know yourself as Bryde again, the Bride of Jesus, and may you have entered the wedding banquet with him, your spouse, the one for whom you longed, your Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Eileen Brennan, Woodlawn, died peacefully on 4<sup>th</sup> November last. The fourth in a family of five, Eileen spent her formative years in Cork and left her family home at Elsinore, Model Farm Road, at an early age to pursue her career in Dublin, where she spent the remainder of her working life. There she continued to develop her abiding interest in all aspects of drama and the theatre. She achieved prominence as a teacher of speech and drama to generations of pupils. On retirement she relocated to Cork where she was to spend her remaining years in the company of her cousin Aileen. A woman possessed of zest and great energy, she was a much loved aunt to her many nephews and nieces. Predeceased by her brother Dick and sisters Moyra and Sheila, she is survived by her brother Des, sister-in-law Gertrude, cousin Aileen, nieces and nephews to whom deepest sympathy is extended.



# FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS (GIFTS MASS)

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MASS AT 12.15 - SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> 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

*Tues 10<sup>th</sup>* ~~Thursday~~ 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6 p.m.

and

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 p.m.