



22nd December 2002

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

The Angels sang on the first Christmas morning: "Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth." Last Saturday night I fell asleep listening to Donnacha Ó Dualing on the radio. I woke some short time later to hear that awfully sad and plaintive song about Christmas on the Western Front on Christmas Night 1914. The guns went silent, and a young German soldier sang 'Silent Night' in a clear tenor voice. The troops from both sides crept out of the cold wet trenches on to 'no man's land'. They shook hands, and exchanged small gifts.

They asked the young German to sing that haunting melody of Silent Night once again - which he did. That was the last time that kind of fraternisation took place. The Commanding Officers on both sides told them they were there to kill each other, not to make friends. The following day an allied soldier killed the young lad who sang of peace on Christmas night - the memory haunted him ever after.

My thoughts returned to Christmas 2002. Neither George W. Bush nor Tony Blair will be in the thick of the fighting if war breaks out again - this

time in Iraq. Nor is Saddam Hussein likely to be the first to fall in an allied attack. But many young men of twenty will lose their lives in horrible circumstances. Their broken bodies will be packed and sent home to heartbroken mothers and fathers.

Peace is a precious thing. It's precious for all of us. It's precious in the sight of God. Jesus said it was his special gift to our world. We must cherish it in our own lives, in our own time - and Christmas is a special occasion to pray fervently for peace in our time.

Enjoy a lovely, joyful and peaceful Christmas 2002.

Thank You!

Things do not just happen of their own accord; 'The Light Within' did not take place without a great deal of work from a great number of people. It would be foolish to list out everyone, but that does not mean that we are not most grateful to all those who helped in any way. We would, of course, like to thank Fr. Donagh O'Shea for guiding us in the ways of prayer. Our thanks is also due to Jerry Hurley of Denroches Cross for providing sandwiches and Pat Dennehy for the church signs. Thank you to all.

Fr. Patrick Walsh



LETTERS

Dear Madam,

Re letter to Bulletin last week.

Punished for their faith? No, they were punished for parking illegally. Of course the guard was doing his duty. I hope no guard will ever think that churchgoers are above the law.

Merry Christmas and thank you and all your team for your excellent work through the year.

Yours sincerely,
Rowena O'Sullivan

Dear Editor,

During my longer-than-expected hospitalisation of nine weeks, my family and I were deeply touched by the number of 'Get Well' cards, Mass Cards, personal messages and telephone calls from neighbours, friends and associates. I was particularly touched by two visits and blessings from Bishop Buckley and also from Dean O'Connor. The Chaplaincy team in the Cork University Hospital, especially Fr. Tom Lyons, were of great consolation and support.

To all, our heartfelt thanks and a Mass of thanks will shortly be offered.

Meanwhile, I am continuing my convalescence shortly in West Cork with

all the family and then back in Wilton, until I am fit for the Tuesday Coffee Club!

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Sincerely,
David McInerney

THE LIGHT WITHIN

Cheer Up!

In Fr. Donagh O'Shea's final Advent talk on Wednesday, his theme was expectation and joy. Underneath all our problems and troubles is a layer of joy. He compared this to the joy of an expectant mother. He spoke of Mary's role and said we also are involved in the mystery of the incarnation – through our inner lives, our hearts.

God takes a step towards us. As the father to the prodigal son, God runs to meet us in the incarnation. Irish people tend to have feelings of shame and guilt. We can cast all that away by opening our hearts to the incarnation. God is as close to us as we are to ourselves. Reassuring thoughts, uplifting.



We offer our sincere sympathy to SR. ITA O'CONNOR, St. Joseph's Convent, Model Farm Road, on the death of her sister, Kay O'Mahony.



Rest in Peace

On 19th November Catherine Roche, Roger Casement Park, died peacefully at the Mercy Hospital. Even though her final stay in hospital was not very long, her death was not unexpected as she had not enjoyed the best of health in recent times. A native of Rosscarbery, she was one of the early arrivals at Roger Casement Park where she cared devotedly for her family. She will be missed by those who remember her as a kindly lady and a caring neighbour. We offer our sincere sympathies to her sons, Con and Fachtina, daughters Mary and Elma, and to the wider family circle. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh a hanam dílis.

On December 10th Breda O'Sullivan, Model Farm Road, died unexpectedly in the Mater Hospital after a very brief illness. A native of Kilnamartyra, Breda spent most of her life as a primary teacher mainly in St. Frances School in the inner city. Steeped in our Irish Language and culture, she brought great care and wisdom to all her pupils especially the more deprived. A member of a large family, she was loved by many of different generations. We offer our deepest sympathies to her sisters Joan, with whom she shared a home, Sheila, Eileen, Norrie, Nancy, her brothers Mick (her twin), Pat, her nieces and nephews, the wider family circle and many friends. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sí.

Bible Corner

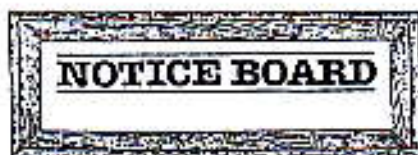


DAVID'S CITY

In our time, census taking registers a person at one's place of residence at a particular time. The Romans operated a different system in Palestine. They ordered people to return to their place of family origin for registration. If such a system were in operation today, the O'Driscolls would go to Baltimore, the O'Sullivans to Beara, the Ryans to Tipperary, the O'Learys to Ivleary and so on. The Roman system meant that for registration Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, the birthplace of the famous King David from whom Joseph was descended, as was Mary.

It had always been foretold that the promised Messiah would come from David's clan, so birth in Bethlehem had a huge symbolic significance in confirming that Jesus was the promised one.

Bethlehem was built on a limestone ridge that was riddled with caves that were used for human shelter as well as stables. The gospels tell us that there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn so, maybe, he was born in one of these limestone caves similar to those all around the Munster countryside like Mitchelstown and Ovens. At birth, our Saviour Jesus was truly homeless.



**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 Week Masses

Monday: 9.00 and 10.00.

Tuesday: 9.00, 10.00, 6.15, Midnight.

Christmas Day: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

St. Stephen's Day and each weekday up
to and including New Year: 10.00.

Confessions

Christmas Eve 12.00-1.00, 4.00-5.00,
and after 6.15 p.m. Mass.



**Irish Blood
Transfusion Service**

Seirbhís Fuilalstríúcháin Éireann

A Christmas Gift of Life

Blood donor clinic on Monday 23rd
December from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
at SMA Community Centre, Wilton.
Please come along and help the
Transfusion Service cope with the
increasing demand from hospitals and
patients in the area.

Parish e-mail address:
holyspiritparish@eircom.net



God's Word

Readings for Sunday 29th December

First Reading:

Gen.15:1-6,21:1-3. Abraham and Sarah
are given a child as a reward for their
faith.

Psalm 104.

Second Reading:

Heb.11:8,11-12,17-19. A reflection on
the outcome of the faith of Abraham and
Sarah.

Gospel:

Lk.2:22-40. The story is told of Jesus'
presentation in the Temple, the
prophesies of Simeon and Anna and the
growth to maturity of Jesus in Mary and
Joseph's care.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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