



Second Sunday of Advent

No. 781

Ballineaspais Bulletin

7th December, 2003



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



OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Declan writes

Forgiveness and Inner Healing

No matter how much self-confidence any of us appears to have, deep within us, we know our faults. We know that no matter how much we hide and put on a mask, we are weak, we are tempted, we are selfish, we use others to suit our plans, we fail to support and affirm, we are jealous..... the list is endless. There are always things we would not want others to know about us. Psychologists also tell us too, that one of the deepest human needs is to feel deeply loved and appreciated as a person.

The One who loves us most is God. He wants us to achieve our human potential, to be fully-loving people. Many people grew up with the tacit understanding that God was out to get them, that he was a harsh punishing God, counting up our sins. Many people have rejected that kind of God and still have not heard that the Gospel and the message of Christ is all about a God who is on our side, who wants us to be with Him, and He with us. I have a priest-friend who, when he hears that a person does not believe in God, says: 'Tell me about the God you do not believe in. I'm sure I don't believe in him either!'

'Prepare a way for the Lord' is the call

of John the Baptist. He attracted huge crowds to the banks of the Jordan, where he washed them in water as a sign of being cleansed of their sins.

Jesus forgave sins, and he healed, and He still does. One of the greatest gifts of the Christian life is the forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Penance. It is a Sacrament of healing of the inner person. It is the love of Jesus reaching deep into our being, reassuring us that God loves us deeply. It is not a Sacrament of judgement, but an *experience*, I repeat, of *deep inner healing*.

Come and experience that healing during Advent. It is the greatest gift you could give yourself. Forget the fear, forget the routine way we learned as kids. Let God's love change you, lift you up and transform you.

Experience God's love in an individual more personal way in the Confession-box. Experience it as a community, celebrating God's unconditional love in our common sinfulness in the Parish Penitential Service on Sunday December 22nd at 5 p.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday 8th December

Masses:

Vigil Mass Sunday 7th at 6.15 p.m.
Monday Masses: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and 7.30.

N.B. No Advent Devotions this Sunday



Rest in Peace

Donal Murphy, Glenlee, Model Farm Road, was so much part of our daily experience that his recent death left us all in a state of shock. Donal was a member of a well-known family in the business life of this city. The extra large attendance at his funeral Mass on Saturday 15th November was ample testimony to the respect and esteem in which he was held. Donal never sought personal popularity, but he had some wonderful friends dating right back to his school days. The Lord himself was his 'forever friend' and Donal was loyal, but undemonstrative in his devotion to the Mass and his prayers. We extend the sympathy of our community to his wife, Violet, sons Simon and John, daughter-in-law Sonya, his sister, brothers and his very many friends.



We offer our sincere sympathy to **MARIE LOUGHRY**, Highfield Lawn, on the death of her mother.

To **HUGH O'DONOVAN**, Wilton Avenue, on the death of his father Vincent, of Curraheen.

To **MAURA COLLINS**, Bishops court, on the death of her brother, Tom Coughlan.

FAMILY CHRIS (GIFTS

CHURCH OF THE

MASS AT 12.15 - SU

ALL ARE W

Every child is invited to bring a no
for St. Vince
and/or take part in the singing
Rehearsals are on Thursday 11th
at 2.00



Congratulations to the following parishioners who were married in the recent past:

EMILY KEHOE, 16 Rossbrook, Model Farm Road, who married **Adrian Kelleher**, Rathcoole, Mallow.

MIRIAM BUCKLEY, San Paula, Model Farm Road, who married **Niall McCarthy Ennis**.





CHRISTMAS MASS

(CHRISTMAS MASS)

HOLY SPIRIT

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

WELCOME

Non-perishable food item (no toys)

St. Paul

and readings of the Mass.

at 6.30 p.m. and Saturday 13th

p.m.

Congratulations!

To parishioner **RONAN CURRAN** of Wilton Road, who received an All Star Award for his outstanding performance on the Cork Senior Hurling team.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Well done to Louise Fitzgerald, 5th year, who came first in Munster in the Under-17 category with her pony "Knowle Minstral" and second in the 2003 RDS. She also won numerous championships including Champion of Waterford Show, Rathfridagh Show and Kenmare Show.

Congratulations to Shereen Rafee who was awarded an entrance Exhibition Award to Trinity College, Dublin, based on her excellent leaving certificate results. Shereen is now studying medicine in Trinity.

Bible Corner



SETTING THE SCENE

Nowadays, Luke's gospel could be classified as investigative reporting. It was commissioned independently by a wealthy Greek, Theophilus. He had heard the stories of this Jew, Jesus, who was reputed to have been a great preacher, miracle worker and who had risen from the dead after being executed by the occupying Romans. Could it be true? Luke was commissioned to gather the evidence and put it in order. The result was Luke's gospel and later, the Acts of the Apostles as well.

This weekend's gospel has Luke setting the scene for the dramatic arrival of John the Baptist. Today's equivalent might read: it was in the sixth year of Mary McAleese's presidency, Bertie Ahern was Taoiseach of the Irish Republic, Ian Paisley was leader of the Unionist majority, John Buckley was Bishop of Cork, when the news broke that Setanta Ó hAilpín was leaving for Australia.

In the case of John the Baptist, he was alerting the people to the imminent arrival of Jesus and was preparing for his coming by challenging the people to change their way of life to be ready for the Saviour in whom Isaiah had promised all mankind would see the salvation of God. The challenge is just as relevant in 2003.



St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly (Christmas) collection will take place at Masses next weekend.



Thank You!

The Committee would like to thank all those who contributed cakes for the parish farewell for Fr. Patrick.



Carol Concert

At Lough Church on Sunday 14th December, 7.30-79.30 p.m. with City of Cork Male Voice Choir, Opera Cork, and choirs of Lough Parish, Cathedral, Dennehy's Cross and Ballyphehane. Adm. €5 (family €10) on the night. Proceeds for Lough Church restoration.

Rosary Procession

In honour of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December at 8.30 p.m. commencing at Grand Parade Hotel, and concluding with Benediction in Ss. Peter & Paul's Church. Bring a candle.

Parish Carol Service

Carols

Choir

BELLS

Prayers

Readings

Be there!

Church of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday December 17th

8p.m.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 14th December

First Reading:

Mic.5:1-4. Zephaniah appeals for joy. The Lord is in the midst of the people, so there is no need for fear.

Psalm 79

Second Reading:

Heb.10:5-10. Be happy, says Paul, and be tolerant: the Lord is very near.

Gospel:

Lk.1:39-45. John the Baptist announces the good News, and declares he is not the Messiah.

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EMERGENCY NUMBER

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