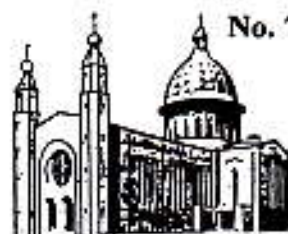


14th December, 2003



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent



No. 782

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



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

Christmas is around the corner. It's a time for memories – happy memories hopefully. We can't help remembering at Christmas – not just memories from our own lives, but remembering how it all started and what it's all about – the story as illustrated in the crib.

In a backward place, a very long time ago, a young woman gave birth to a baby. She was refused admittance to the local lodging house, and so brought forth her child in an outhouse. It was by all

accounts a pathetic little scene. But for the whole world it was the beginning of the greatest story ever told, and Good News for all generations for ever more. Nothing in the whole world would ever be the same again. The roots of human fulfilment and happiness are found in the life and teaching of the Child who was born in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night.

So Christmas is a time for celebration. Of course it is. But for heaven's sake keep the honour of the Child Jesus at the centre of the celebrations.

Have a lovely and memorable Christmas.

Denis O'Connor.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS (GIFTS MASS)

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
MASS AT 12.15 - SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Every child is invited to bring a non-perishable food item (no toys)
for St. Vincent de Paul
and/or take part in the singing and readings of the Mass.

JACK THE SAILOR

When I was young we lived near a river. Each day about 1.00 p.m. this poor unfortunate man in his forties would arrive with a few shopping bags full of rubbish, mostly cabbage leaves and bones. He used to get the bones and cabbage from dustbins near the Savoy Cinema and Restaurant. He would light a fire beside the river and make a stew. Then one day he went around our houses trying to sell a small tin of black shoe polish. He was not having much luck. "I am short for the hostel for shelter", he said to me. I was poor myself but I gave him two pennies. I told him keep the tin of polish and he might make a sale elsewhere. Later on when I grew up, I kind of adopted him and I could afford five or ten shillings if I saw him in town. He was quiet, gentle and well bred, always very grateful.

Please reflect now. Visit some person in a retirement home or living alone - there are thousands Or give cash or a hamper to St. Vincent de Paul. The result is you will feel this is a lovely Christmas. The small effort will bring you joy.

Merry Christmas.

John A Foley

A WINTER WOOLLY

Just what they need for Christmas in Colombia. With Trócaire's global gift plan, you can buy in the name of a friend or relative for Christmas:

- cashew nut trees €15
- seeds and tools €20

- literacy classes €25
- sheep €35
- family survival kit €50
- home vegetable garden €70
- solar powered oven €100
- irrigation pump €150

These gifts will go directly to impoverished families in some of the poorest parts of the world and your friend or relation gets a beautifully designed personalised certificate and Christmas card. These gifts are real, practical and life-changing.

To order, please contact Trócaire, 9 Cook Street, tel. 4275622.

CASA

(Caring and Sharing Association)

CASA is a totally voluntary organisation, our aim is simple, to develop friendships between our helpers and disabled members. This is facilitated through year round activities and local social events which include pilgrimages to Lourdes, holidays and respite care for those who are sick or have physical or intellectual disabilities. CASA has two Breakhouses, where we offer time-out in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and where the helper and the disabled person are equal and each individual is valued and respected

We have just launched a direct debit campaign which we hope will provide the ongoing funding we need in order to continue to maintain our Breakhouses and allow others to experience a stay there. If you would like to contribute to this campaign please contact CASA directly by ringing Mairead after working hours at 086-8289908.



PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

At last Monday's meeting a new member Gertrude Hurley, representing College Road, was welcomed.

Fr. Mansfield reported on the first meeting with representatives of the secondary schools of the parish. The purpose of the group is to work towards a greater involvement of young people, not just in church based activities but in the wider parish community.

The Council examined drawings and specifications relating to the proposed hand rails on the altar steps.

Parish Christmas Programme

The following dates and times were announced:

Sunday 14th December:

Family Gift Mass at 12.15 p.m.

Wednesday 17th:

Parish Carol Service at 8.00 p.m.

Sunday 21st:

Reconciliation Service at 5.00 p.m.

Christmas Eve:

Family Mass at 6.15 p.m.

Midnight Mass (Communion will be offered under both species at this Mass).

Next meeting will be held on 12th January.

CHRISTMAS CARD CHECKLIST

If you still have Christmas cards to buy, do you check they are

- Religious in theme
- Sold in aid of Charity
- Made in Ireland?

Bible Corner



CONVERT TAX COLLECTORS

Taxes seem to be in the news almost daily. This was as true in the time of Jesus as it is today.

There were two reasons why taxes were even more resented then. Firstly, the taxes were being levied by an occupying army which was hated by the native population. Secondly, the policy of central government at the time was to auction the right to collect taxes in a particular area, and then it was up to the highest successful bidder to extract as much tax as he possibly could, even above the regulation rate, by fair means or foul. For example, somebody might successfully bid a half a million euro for the right to collect taxes in Ballineaspig parish. Then, he would use tough tactics to get several million from the people of the area. He pocketed the excess.

Naturally, those involved in such a despicable venture were generally distrusted and ostracised by the wider population. Yet, John the Baptist moved even the hard hearts of these professional bullyboys to repentance, as we read this weekend. He must have been some preacher. Maybe, he can move us to repentance too.





Bulletins to Homes

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

Tree Giving Project

St. Vincent de Paul project at Merchant's Quay Shopping Centre from 8th to 24th December – gifts will make a difference to needy children this Christmas.

Adult Education U.C.C.

Short term courses commencing 19th January. For details contact 4904717 or 4902301, email: ace@ucc.ie.

Bishopstown Community Association

Annual dinner for senior citizens will be held in Cork Institute of Technology on Sunday 11th January at 6.00 p.m. Early booking essential. Tickets available from Nora Fitzpatrick at 4546358.

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net



Parish Carol Service

Carols

CHOIR

Prayers

Readings

Be there!

Church of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday December 17th

8.00 p.m.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 21st December

First Reading:

Mic.5:1-4. The promise is given that Bethlehem will be the birthplace of the shepherd of Israel.

Psalm 79

Second Reading:

Heb.10:5-10. Instead of offering sacrifices, Jesus offers himself, dedicating himself to do God's will – a model for all believers.

Gospel:

Lk.1:39-45. Blessed is Mary among women, and blessed is the fruit of her womb – Jesus, whose birth we will shortly celebrate.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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