

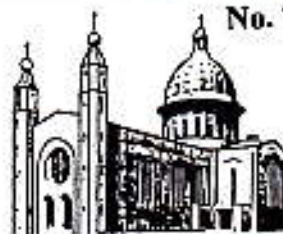


11<sup>th</sup> January 2004

No. 785

# Ballineaspig Bulletin

The Baptism of the Lord



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



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Declan writes*

## A Sense of Identity

In our world of today, life is getting more impersonal all the time. People pass by without greeting each other; in shops, you have to search for an assistant. Since I was young, we've lost the milkman, the breadman, the corner shop....

But on the day each of us was baptised, we were brought to the Church, and we were given our name, our identity, our mission in life. We were anointed, and sent out as a Child of God to face life. As with Jesus on the banks of the Jordan, the Spirit descended on each one of us, and we **should** have heard the voice of the Father saying to us: 'You are my child, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

We began life, shortly after birth, blessed, consecrated to the Lord, anointed, bathed in life-giving water, with the light of the Risen Jesus handed on to us from the Easter Candle. Do we appreciate this? Do we ever think of the gift we were given that day. In a sense, it's an awful pity we can't remember it! For many lucky children, today's modern technology has captured it on video.

In the Eastern Orthodox Churches, it is not the Birth-day of a person that is celebrated each year, but the Baptism-Day, because they believe that it was on that day that life really began for the child, and that the person took on their whole identity, meaning and mission in life.

If any of us have identity problems in our anonymous world of today, it is so important to understand that there is One who knows and loves us more than any human could, One who has called us by name, One who has formed us in our mother's womb, One who will never fail us. God is The Great Parent. Each of us is Child of God.

Fr. Declan Mansfield, C.C.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD



MT 3-17





## Rest in Peace

Noreen O'Neill, Model Farm Road, died peacefully at the Bon Secours Hospital on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2003. She was predeceased by her husband Michael and her son David. A native of Listowel, Co Kerry, and a medical graduate from Dublin, she spent most of her life here in Cork. As a long-time resident on Model Farm Road, the focus of her life was family and friends. Life long interests in education and travel enriched all whose lives she touched. We extend our sincerest sympathies to her son Brendan, daughters Mary and Jane, daughter-in-law Colette, son-in-law Roger, her grandchildren, relatives and friends.

The residents of St. Clare's Avenue were saddened recently by the death of Frank Corrigan. A native of Northern Ireland, he came south to found a fruit and vegetable business to which he gave many years of his life. Twice married and bereaved, he endured many ups and downs in a life-span which covered most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His love of sport endured to the end as he cheered his native Armagh to recent victory. Much of his life of faith was lived out in the Convent Chapel of the Poor Clares. He will be missed by his sons, and by a wide circle of relatives and friends. His Requiem Mass was concelebrated by his nephew, Fr. Des Corrigan.

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## ENCOURAGING WORDS

Visiting the crib at Christmas is a very special part of the beauty of the feast, which parents and children make a family occasion. Jesus' life began in that little stable, surrounded by the warmth of the living animals, the scent of hay and the gentle touch of his mother.

He came into a life of the senses, a life of joy and pain. He walked the dusty roads, drank sweet wine at weddings and laughed and grieved with his friends. He left us an example of a life overflowing with love, hope and compassion, a life brutally ended by those who did not accept this message.

Through it all God sustained him and in the words of St. Ignatius, "Jesus did it all for you and me". Ignatius tells us to taste with love that heavenly plan, that holy family, to taste Jesus' life. For in that life exists *all* our lives, the essence and vitality of both body and spirit.

Ours is an incarnate faith. The blessings and sorrows of body and soul fill our lives as we enter January. If you have any doubts about the God of love and forgiveness, reflect on the qualities of the friend who was the rock upon which Jesus built his church.





Noreen Kenny (nee Buckley) of Wilton Gardens died peacefully in the Bon Secours Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2003. She was a long-time resident of Wilton Gardens where she and her late husband Pat, set up home after their marriage. She was a kind and gentle person, held in high esteem by her neighbours and friends. Noreen loved her garden which she tended with great care. She was blessed with a beautiful singing voice and was, in her young days, a valued member of Cór Cois Laoi. We offer our sincere sympathy to her son Eoin, her daughter Miriam, son-in-law John, sister Maureen and brothers Ollie and Michael. Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam dilis .

Peter loved and trusted Jesus, but there were times when he didn't understand his mission, even denied him three times – to be welcomed back with the words: "Do you love me?" What a lesson in forgiveness and self-acceptance. Having visited the Holy Family at the crib, with renewed faith, hope and love, say from your heart to Jesus in the New Year: "You know I love you".

*Jill Sheehan, Intercom*

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## Bible Corner



### HOW ARE WE SAVED?

Religion can be a great arena of argument if you want it that way. Over the years, one of the divisive topics in religious debate centred on how we are made ready for the fullness of life with God, how we are saved, or justified, as it is called.

One view focuses exclusively on the initiative God takes in saving us. "It was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us by means of the cleansing water of rebirth." The other view emphasises that faith without good works is ineffective, highlighting the importance of our lifestyle in determining our long-term relationship with God. "We must give up everything that does not lead to God and live good and religious lives." This view was seen as downgrading God's role in our salvation by claiming that we earned God's love by our own good works.

Luther and his co-reformers stressed the first view, whereas his opponents may have over-emphasised the second view. In our own time, there has been a greater understanding of both elements. We see in this weekend's second reading that God's gift of his Spirit is the foundation and power in our salvation, but for it to be fruitfully effective, we must respond by lives of sincere service and love.



**Scriptural Prayer (Lectio Divina)**

As part of our Parish Advent Programme, many people came to try praying with the Sunday readings during the weeks of Advent. Six groups in all were in existence at one stage; three on Monday morning, and one each on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Some found it was not for them, but the majority contributed and gained a lot from the experience.

For the present, two groups will continue:

**Monday morning**, after 10a.m. Mass

**Tuesday night**, St. Catharine's Convent, at 8p.m.

These will begin on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January.

New members are welcome to come and spend a quiet hour of reflection and prayer with the Word of God.

Anyone who would like to begin or continue, but for whom the above times are unsuitable is invited to contact Carmel, at 4545781.

**Bulletins to Homes**

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

**Pastoral Council**

Meet this Monday 12<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Centre at 8.10 p.m.

**Friendship Club**

Will resume on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> in the Crypt at 2.30 p.m.

**Crypt Bridge Club**

We hope all our members had a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We will be reopening on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 p.m. sharp. All are welcome.

**God's Word**

**Readings for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**First Reading:**

Is.62:1-5. God's relationship with us is described in terms of a wedding – God is as close as a bridegroom to a bride.

**Psalm 95**

**Second Reading:**

1 Cor 12:4-11. Between now and the start of Lent, the second reading each Sunday is from St. Paul's first letter to the people of Corinth. He wrote to them in response to a request for practical guidance. Today's reading outlines the different gifts needed by each community, which the Spirit provides.

**Gospel:**

Jb,2:1-11. The story of the wedding feast of Cana repeats the message of the two recent feasts, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord: Jesus' glory was seen by his disciples.

**DENNEHY'S CROSS  
HANDBELL RINGERS**



*Come and join us*

*Lovely music*

*All you need is a sense of rhythm*

*New group starting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January*

*7.30 p.m.*

*Parish Centre, Dennehy's Cross*

*Contact numbers: 4543016  
4545781  
4544170*

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**