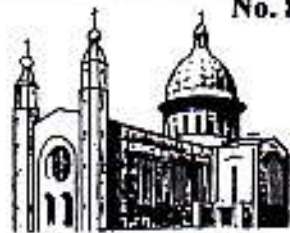


12th December 2004**B**allineaspais
Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORKFROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM***The Dean writes*

Christmas is around the corner. You don't have to be reminded – every advertisement, radio programme and concert has already done that.

Central to the celebration of this great feast, of course, is the birth of Jesus – the Son of God. In the natural course of events, nobody is closer to a child than its mother. It's appropriate then that last Wednesday, 8th December, we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception – the fact that, by the power of God, Mary was conceived and born without stain of original sin – our tainted nature's solitary boast.

There are a number of related incidents surrounding this beautiful feast. In November 1830 Catherine Labouré was a member of the Sisters of Charity at their convent in the Rue de Bac in Paris. She had a vision of Our Lady who asked that a medal should be struck with her image on it and the prayer "O, Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to you."

With permission from Church authorities this was done, and within a short few years the medal became known as the Miraculous Medal,

because of the extraordinary number of miraculous healings and conversions worked by Our Lord through the intercession of his Immaculate Mother. In 1854 the Pope made the Immaculate Conception part of the Church's solemn teaching, and established the feast-day on the 8th December. Four years later in 1858, Our Lady appeared at Lourdes to a simple innocent little girl, Bernadette Soubirous. When the child asked her who she was, she simply replied "I am the Immaculate Conception". The rest is history.

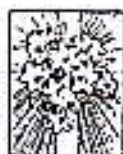
Aennis O'Connor.

Parish Reconciliation Service

Prepare the Way of the Lord

A Parish celebration of healing,
forgiveness and God's love.
Come and experience support and
strength.

Sunday December 19th, 5.00 p.m.



Rest in Peace

Mary Forde of Lima Lawn passed away earlier this week. Aged eighty-eight, she had lived a long and healthy life. Her sister Nora, who died only five weeks ago, had lived with her until she suffered a stroke. For a while, Mary continued to live alone, but had moved to a nursing home in Leamlara in recent months when it was no longer possible for her to care for herself. At the age of twenty three, Mary's mother had died, and she had had to take her place in looking after a family of nine. A capable and determined woman, she later learned to drive at fifty five, and worked until the age of seventy. She served for several years as Minister of the Eucharist. May the good Lord now welcome her to the banquet of heaven. Our sincere sympathies go to her brother Ted and her sisters Sheila, Nancy and Maud, relatives and friends.



We offer our sincere sympathy to EILEEN O'MAHONY, Bendmeer Park, on the death of her sister, Kitty O'Leary.

Wanted!

**For Children's Christmas Mass,
Christmas Eve, 6.15 p.m.**

Boys and girls (2nd-6th class) to take part in readings, prayers, and acting out of Gospel.

Musicians and singers welcome too.

**First Practice: Wednesday December
15th at 4.00 p.m. in the Church.**



FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS

**Reminder of Family Christmas
Mass at 12.15 p.m Sunday**

As well as bringing a home-made Christmas Card to be hung on the tree, 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Bible Corner



EXILE AND RETURN

Invasion was a feature of life for the Hebrew people. Situated on key trade routes to the East, their homeland territories were always under threat of invasion when not actually occupied by foreign armies. For the Hebrews, exile often followed invasion. Exile in Babylon for almost the entire race nearly wiped them out as a people, as they were tempted to become absorbed into the culture of their host captors.

But Isaiah helped to keep faith in their calling alive in their hearts. This weekend's extract from the book of Isaiah paints a rosy picture of their native land readying itself for their return home. It also has a reminder that they will see the glory of the Lord.

"Courage, do not be afraid".

"They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them, and sorrow and lament be ended."

It is a message of hope for all who are exiled from home, family or even from God. Now is the time to return.



LOCAL SCHOOLS

Mount Mercy

Equestrian News

After a very successful season, Louise Fitzgerald and her horse, Barney Millar, won at the National Championships and is now No. 1 in Ireland. Louise also travelled to England to compete in the British Connemara Pony Championships and won 4 classes and was awarded leading rider of the show.

CONGRATULATIONS





Parish Dues

Many parishioners have returned their envelopes either directly or through our dedicated collectors. Your contribution to the support of the priests is very much appreciated. Thank you. Remaining contributions can be dropped in to any of the priests or to the sacristy. Many thanks.

Fairtrade Hamper

Don't forget to enter raffle for Fairtrade Hamper. Closing date, Tuesday 14th December. Fairtrade box is at the boack of the church.

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Pastoral Council

Meeting next Monday 13th at 8.10 p.m. in parish centre.

Bishopstown Lay Dominican Chapter

Invites you to join in their annual Day of Recollection at Ennismore Retreat House on Saturday 15th January 2005. For further information please contact 086-1966104 or 086-1547944



Bishopstown Senior Social Centre

We wish all our members and helpers a holy and happy Christmas and 2005. Centre closes Thursday 16th December and re-opens Monday 10th January.

Advent Carol Service

You are invited to our Church to celebrate the Advent Season with joy and prayer, Word of God, carols new and old, movement, symbol, music and light.

This weekend Sunday 12th

7 p.m.

Refreshments and mince pies in crypt to follow.

Be there. Get in the mood!!

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 19th December

First Reading:

Is. 7:10-14. The first-reading contains Isaiah's prophecy of the events we celebrate at Christmas.

Psalm : 23

Second Reading:

Rom. 1:1-17. Paul's message is another reminder of what we are preparing to celebrate.

Gospel:

Mt. 1:18-24. The gospel shows how Jesus' birth is the fulfilment of an ancient prophecy.

Parish e-mail address:

holyspiritparish@eircom.net

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940