



9th January 2005

No. 823

Ballineaspais Bulletin

The Baptism of the Lord



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Declan writes

PCB – The Dreaded Illness

So here we are again. Happy New Year to all our readers!! It takes a while to get used to writing 2005, and seeing it on the diary etc, doesn't it? It doesn't seem that long since the millennium! Tell me, are you suffering this week from a mild, or even a bad dose of PCB, I wonder? What's that, you say? It's a seasonal religious disease, diagnosed by the Doctors of the Church, which even true believers often suffer from at this time of the year: Post-Christmas Blues! I bet nobody ever told you about it before. The symptoms?

- Going around and asking people 'How did you get over Christmas?' (This symptom often indicates a deeper illness, i.e. that you believe Christmas is a bit like a hurricane or a disaster that one 'gets over' or survives.)
- Hating to be asked 'How did you get over Christmas?', and wanting to take a knife to the next person that asks me that!
- Thanking God it's all over for another year.
- Not wanting to even think about next Christmas – after all, it's another 349 days away!

If you are suffering from one or all of the above, then you are in chronic acute PCB! It's perfectly o.k. to admit to it. There are many sufferers around. The good news is that it is not terminal, and is seldom fatal. It's not easily treatable however. The serious side effects of this mental illness are often indicated by the pounds (or grams) one has gained while building up to it, the after effects of the ethyl alcohol one has used as a mild sedative and analgesic, the bank statements and Visa dockets.

Treatment:

- Daily thanksgiving for the seasonal love one has experienced and shared
- Renewing lost contacts with friends
- Knowing that even when Christmas goes, the love of Jesus stays

Praying frequently about the year ahead and the promise it holds.

**-YOU ARE
MY BELOVED SON.**





Rest in Peace

Joan Burke, Laburnum Lawn, died at Marymount on Tuesday 7th December, 2004. Joan was a native of Toames, Macroom, where her parents taught in the local school. Her early plans to pursue a nursing course at St. Vincent's, Dublin, had to be put on hold due to ill health. She then switched her interest to secretarial work which she followed until retirement. Joan was a gentle and caring person - loved and respected by her neighbours in Laburnum, and really by all who knew her. We extend sincere sympathy to her sister Mona, her brother Michéal, and all her relatives and friends. She will be remembered with love and affection by us all.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to EILEEN NOLAN, The Orchard, on the death in London of her brother, Theo Barry.



LETTER

Laburnum Drive,
Wilton.

Dear Editor,

"Feed the birds tuppence a bag" (*Mary Poppins*) so the song goes. Winter is hard on little birds. Give them a few crumbs or buy a bird basket and nuts. Hang it on the hedge opposite the house

window. See the birds feed.

Oh yes, look up! See buds on trees. God's wonder indeed.

John A. Foley P.C.

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTISED?

We may wonder why on earth Jesus insisted on being baptised. It is easy to appreciate the reluctance felt by John when Jesus joined the queue of sinners and presented himself for baptism at the river Jordan.

It must have been an incredible scene as the sinless one of God, who was far greater than John and had no need of baptism, came forward. Stepping down into the muddy waters of the human condition was a statement by Christ that he was not standing aloof from sinners but had come to show solidarity with a suffering people and to identify completely with humankind. He embraced his vocation and was familiar with all the hardship we experience.

After birth, the most important step in our lives is our baptism. It is a graced moment marking the beginning of our relationship with God.

Baptism is not over and done with when the church ceremony is completed. It is the beginning of our faith journey for we have been chosen for a mission in the world of today. Our call is to go about as an encouraging presence doing good in our own sphere of living, and making the world a better place by reaching out to the excluded, the oppressed, the poor, the sick and the lonely. What we receive as a gift is meant to be shared with others.

Fr. Desmond Knowles



Bible Corner



FAVOURITES : ONE AND ALL

Cork people are reputed to be very secure about their roots. Indeed, it is said sometimes that Corkonians actually have sympathy for those who were not lucky enough to be born as one of themselves. St. Peter grew up in a similar environment and into similar attitudes. The Hebrews saw themselves as God's chosen people and others as outsiders who were less precious in God's eyes. True, the Hebrews were chosen for a particular role in history, to facilitate the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, into the world but that task did not bring superior entitlements with it. Even after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Peter thought the salvation brought by Jesus was especially for convert Jews only. It took a divinely inspired vision to alert Peter to the fact that "God does not have favourites". But once Peter grasped that truth, his enthusiastic preaching reached out to all, as we see in the history of the early church as recounted in this weekend's second reading.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

Bishopstown Community School
Congratulations to Brendan O'Connor and Emily Kennedy (Leaving Cert Students 2004) who were awarded Entrance Scholarships to University College Cork on the basis of their excellent Leaving Certificate Results

Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh

The annual **Readathon** for first and second years run by transition year students brought in a total of €4,500. The money will go towards the repair of the Presentation School on the Caribbean island of Grenada which was badly damaged in the recent hurricane, and also to support our friends at the COPE Foundation.

Debating

All six C.S.N. speakers performed brilliantly at the Denny/U.C.C. Philosoph. competition and have successfully progressed to the next round.

Sports

The senior footballers have qualified for the knock-out stages of the Munster Colleges competition and are looking forward to the final of the Cork Colleges competition against old rivals Coláiste Chríost Rí. Ian Manning meanwhile landed a 16lb Pike while fishing with the school fishing club at Inniscarra Lake.

A JANUARY SAINT: ST. ITA

Feast Day: Saturday, 15 January

Ita (Ide), who died in 570 AD, had much influence among the early Irish Christians. Churches dedicated to her are found all over the country. She is celebrated in a window in the Honan Chapel. One story about her claims she was granted the privilege of holding the baby Jesus in her arms and nursing him.

Ita is honoured as a foster mother to other Irish saints, who went to her school in Killeedy, Co. Limerick. There, she was always more concerned about serving others than building her own empire.



Bulletins to the Homes

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

Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 10th at 8.10 p.m. in Parish Centre.

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will resume on Monday 10th in the Crypt at 2.30 p.m.

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 16th January

First Reading:

Is.49:3,5-6. Isaiah reminds us that God's chosen One, Jesus, will bring salvation to all nations.

Psalm : 39

Second Reading:

1 Cor.1:1-3. St. Paul expresses gratitude for all the graces given to the Christian community at Corinth.

Gospel:

Jn.1:29-34. In the gospel today we are introduced by John the Baptist to Jesus, the Lamb of God.

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EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

Q. Who were the three wise men? Were they kings or astrologers?

A. Matthew's gospel tells us of some wise men from the east coming to adore the new-born king. Since three gifts were mentioned, it has been presumed that they were three. We really know nothing with certainty about their background. Matthew uses their story to illustrate the journey from paganism to the adoration of Christ. A religion based on observing the stars brought them a certain distance. They needed the guidance of Jewish revelation to go further. Eventually, they bowed in adoration before the child of Bethlehem.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap



The wise man hears one word — and understands two.