

Ballineaspai Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

27th November, 2005

First Sunday of Advent

No. 859

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
4th December

First Reading:
Is 40:1-5,9-11.

Psalm: 84

Second Reading:
2 Pet 3:8-14.

Gospel:
Mark 1:1-8

THE SPARK WITHIN

On the last weekend in November, it may be very hard to stir up enthusiasm for a New Year. Yet, that is what the Church suggests as we begin our Advent preparations for the new beginnings that Christmas could trigger. Do you ever feel corralled into a programmed and seemingly safe way of being a Christian? Follow the routine faithfully and all will be well.

The danger is that we become consumers of religious practice rather than co-creators with the Spirit of a personal vibrant visionary life-style response to the inner call of the Lord. The Advent invitation is to imitate the risk taking love of Jesus when He first came among us at Bethlehem. He risked hardship, misunderstanding, even rejection and crucifixion. It was all worthwhile. Why? Because that is what and who our God is, an innovative lover. To be made in the image of such a one, to share in that spirit means that the God-given spark of creative response to life in our world today is never extinguished. It may be undermined by self doubt. It may be smothered by anxieties. It may be rendered sterile by the safety of the familiar routines. It may be stifled by little achievements. But that God-in-us spark never dies.

Advent is an opportunity to let this spark surface in hope, to explore it in faith, to let it ignite our love, to renew our relationships, to revitalise our worship, to inspire us to follow our dream, our dream of being a child of the universe and a child of God. Advent 2005 is with us and will never come again. It is a call to be answered now. It is a time for courage and change. It is a time for creative conversion.

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEWS

Our Parish was honourably represented at a Mass and presentation of medals in Douglas last Saturday evening.

One of our loyal members - Jim Hassett, Bishops court Hill - was the recipient of a special medal for long service to the Society.

The large meeting of about 150 members from Cork City and County was addressed by the Regional President, Mairéad Bushnell, and the Special Guest was Brian O'Reilly, National President S.V.P.

EUCCHARIST IN MY LIFE

A Parishioner's Thoughts



Those moments when Jesus is in my heart in Holy Communion are the nearest to Heaven I can imagine. All cares and fears disappear. He is here - peace and love.

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LOCAL SCHOOLS

We are already thinking of Christmas at St Catherine's! This year we plan to put on a pageant in our parish church on Thursday 15th December at 7pm. All will be welcome.

Our Confirmation girls had their Ceremony of Commitment, on 21st October, and are now learning about the seven sacraments. Our First Communion girls had their Enrolment Ceremony in October too. These are very special family occasions. The girl who is preparing for the sacrament becomes the focus of attention in the family throughout the year.

On Monday 14th November we helped launch "Green Acres" a gardening book for children by Anne McKeon. Some of the girls in 4th class were involved in the research for this book, with their teacher Mrs. Griffin, who takes responsibility for the garden, and promotes it as a rich learning environment.

Congratulations to Aoibheann O'Donovan and Deirdre O'Neill, 6th Class pupils who were prize-winners in the recent Credit Union poster competition.

Scriptural Prayer

Why not spend an hour a week with the Word of God for Advent? Two Scriptural Prayer groups meet regularly each week. Just a reading of the Gospel for the following Sunday, then some quietness and some sharing of what the Gospel is saying to me, asking of me, encouraging me to pray about.

Come and join us:

Parish Centre, Monday mornings, 10.30 a.m., just after Mass

**St. Catherine's Convent,
Tuesday nights, 8 p.m.**

Don't forget to enter the raffle for the Fairtrade hamper

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Rest in Peace

With sadness we celebrated a Requiem Mass last week for Clare O'Donoghue, of College Road. Clare had been in poor health for many years, and had retired early, but her sudden deterioration and death was unexpected. Coming only just over a year after the death of her only brother, Patrick (Pa), her death brought renewed grief to her sister-in-law, Helen and family. Clare was a gentle lady, so patient and serene even in suffering. We express our sympathy as a community to Helen and her daughter and sons, to Clare's relatives, friends and neighbours. Her loss will also be deeply felt by Donal, her friend of many years, who brought her to Mass and cared for her so much in recent years. May she rest with the Lord.

FOR ALL ETERNITY

1 000 YEARS OF MONASTERIES

An Exhibition tracing the history of monasteries and convents in five Northern European countries is running in the South Presentation Convent until 8th January, Tuesday to Saturday, 11.00 to 4.00 p.m. Admission free.

NOTICE BOARD

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday of the month. Calls to sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 2nd December from 10.30 to 7.30 p.m. followed by Mass.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 1st December at 8.00 p.m. in Parish Centre.

Ministers of the Word and Eucharist

Please collect your new Rota which is available at the Altar Rails this weekend.

Music for Advent and Christmastide

Cor Cois Abhann Corcaigh present a programme at St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Saturday 3rd December at 8.00 p.m. Tickets €10, concessions €8 available from choir or at the door.

Ursuline Past Pupils Union

Christmas lunch will be held at Hotel Vienna Woods on Sunday 4th December, cost €22. Booking with Irene 4541583 or Teresa 4504226.

Christmas Craft Fair

On Sunday 4th December at L'Arche Community Centre, Togher, from 10.00 to 5.00 p.m. All welcome. Admission free.

Christmas Concert

In aid of St. Luke's Home & Alheimers Unit, with Majella Cullagh, Breffni Horgan and Louise O'Sullivan, in the Lough Church on December 8th at 8.00 p.m. €20 adm. Tickets available from Pro Musica and Lough Church.