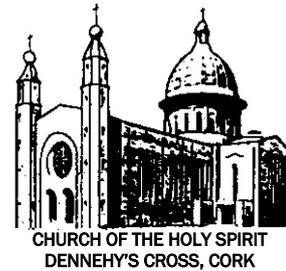


Ballineaspig Bulletin



3rd December 2006

First Sunday of Advent

No. 901

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
10 December

First Reading
Bar 5:1-9

Psalms 125

Second Reading
Phil 1:3-6

Gospel
Luke 3:1-6

OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

DECEMBER SIMPLICITY



Why will this month of December see more extravagance and waste than any other month of the year? Is it to celebrate the coming of the Son of God to share my human nature and live among us? Hardly.

True enough, this month will see extraordinary generosity and self sacrifice, often channelled through SHARE, Trócaire, Concern, St. Vincent de Paul, Goal, Bóthar and so on. Such heroism relieves so much deprivation and is to be greatly welcomed, nurtured and appreciated. But the fact remains that extravagant spending, alcohol excess, food wastage, unnecessary energy consumption, will dominate our advertising and our socialising and perhaps, our homes.

The call of the gospel is different. It is a call to respectful simplicity and sincerity. Advent is a summons to recognise that we are only temporary stewards of God's gifts, not arrogant owners of our resources or talents. It is a challenge to realise that other people's need to simply live must come before my longing for luxury and show.

Will being a committed follower of Jesus make a difference to my lifestyle in the run up to this Christmas? Advent is an opportunity to explore this quandary individually, as families, as communities. Share your view with us in next week's Bulletin.

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LIVE MORE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Please join us tonight Sunday 3rd December
7.00 p.m.

Advent Carols, Readings and Ritual by Candlelight

Gift yourself some quiet time in preparation for Christmas

All welcome

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net Website: www.dennehycrossparish.ie





Mary Harley died peacefully at her home in Bishopstown Avenue on the 18th November. She had been ill for some months prior to that, but she accepted her condition as another phase of life, and never lost her will to live. Mary was a member of a well-known Cork business family, and had all the graciousness of her generation - a quality that endeared her to her numerous friends. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Barry, who cared for her all during her illness, to her daughter Joanne, sons Tim and David, brothers George and Edward, grandchildren, son-in-law, daughters-in-law, and her many friends. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Pat Collins, Wilton Road, died on November 18th at the Mercy Hospital after a very brief illness. His unexpected and untimely death shocked all who knew him. A native of Bandon, Pat joined the Civil Service and after several postings around the country returned to Cork. He earned a reputation as a competent, courteous and dedicated public servant of the highest integrity. His love of sport and of the Irish language and traditions always remained alive. His service to the community and especially to the parish here took many forms for which we are deeply grateful. But above all, Pat was a family man, loving and caring for his beloved Siobhan and his children, Anne, Kevin and Maria, always enjoying life to the full with them. Family, friends and faith were at the core of Pat's life and sustained him always. To his wife Siobhan, his children, brother Liam and sister Breda, and to the wider family and great circle of neighbours and friends, we offer our sincerest sympathies. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sé i gconuí.

James (Jim) Moynihan, Model Farm Road, died unexpectedly on 21st November. He had been unwell for the past year and spent much of this time in the care of the doctors and nurses at Cork University Hospital. He spent the last happy weeks of his life in the care of Mount Desert Nursing Home. Jim was 77 years old and for 46 years worked for Guy & Company in Cork. Gardening was Jim's first love and he was always complimented for his perfectly trimmed hedges. He was also very good with timber and framing. Jim was a very active member of the deaf community in Cork and will be sadly missed by his many deaf friends throughout the county. He was laid to rest in the presence of his loving family and friends at St. Mary and St. John's Churchyard Cemetery in Ballincollig. We extend our sympathy to his sisters Mary, Sheila and Peg and his nieces and nephews.

Bible Corner



A PROPHET OF HOPE

Prophets of doom and gloom are a feature of every generation. Depending on their sphere of interest, they predict economic chaos, religious demise, moral decay or social anarchy. Often, they speak with good reason, as did Jeremiah whom we read this weekend. Again and again, he warned the Hebrews that their nation was about to be destroyed and that captive exile in Babylon awaited them.

But unlike many current prophets of gloom, Jeremiah saw a ray of hope. A son of David's race would arise to inspire honesty and integrity once more. As a visible token of his own hope in the future, Jeremiah bought a field in the devastated land.

Hopelessness must not blind us to our Advent opportunities to fittingly celebrate the coming of the Son of David, Jesus our Lord.

Fr. Tom Clancy



CHRISTMAS FAMILY GIFT MASS

Sunday 10th December, 12.15 pm

This is a reminder of our annual Mass where we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and at the same time remember those less fortunate in our area. We will have a practice session at 6.15pm on Thursday 7th December and hope to see you there.

We would like to ask for non-perishable food gifts for St. Vincent de Paul to be presented during the Mass.

NOTICE BOARD

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

As requested, the monthly meeting will now be held at **3.00 p.m.** on Thursday next 7th December in the Parish Centre. New members welcome.

Advent Preparation

Lectio Divina continues on Monday at 10.30am in Parish Centre, or Tuesday at 8pm in St. Catherine's Convent. Come and dialogue with Sunday's gospel.

Advent Booklet 'Walk With Me'

Now available in the church bookracks.

Thank You

The Fitzpatrick family would like to thank the priests and parishioners of Dennehy's Cross for their wonderful support and generosity. Almost €4,500 was raised from the sale of the *Small Change* calendars, and donations by those who attended the talk about Malawi in the Crypt, as well as from others who were unable to attend and who sent donations separately. Money is still coming in, and the calendars are still available from us at 4343851, or through the Alternative Bread Company in the English Market. We already have well over our target of €10,000 in the *Small Change* bank account, and all the money will go direct to Mzuzu, Malawi. A special word of thanks to Gertrude and Brian Hurley for all their help and enthusiastic support in this fund-raising effort. With sincere thanks to everyone. Johanna Fitzpatrick



The Word of God

A Parishioner's Thoughts

When I read the Word of God I believe I am listening to the voice of a true friend. He comforts me yet challenges me to be the best person I can be. This communication of God to us is a highlight of Mass for me.

Please take a copy of the Bulletin home or give it to a friend or neighbour