

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



10th December, 2006

Second Sunday of Advent

No. 902

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
17 December
First Reading:
Zeph 3:14-18
Psalm : Is 12:2-6
Second Reading:
Phil 4:4-7
Gospel:
Luke 3:10-18

CONTACT DETAILS

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

THE DEAN WRITES

ADVENT – A BLESSED TIME OF WAITING



On Sunday evening last I attended a very inspiring Advent Service here in our Church. The recurring theme with the choir and our young readers was the word "Emmanuel". At the outset, Fr. Christy explained that the meaning of the word is "God is with us".

And, of course, the word sums up the wonder and the mystery which is the feast of Christmas. We are all familiar with the baby in the crib – born in Bethlehem on the first Christmas night. The only trouble is that with the hustle and bustle of presents, and shopping, and cards, we could lose sight of the significance of this extraordinary event in the history of mankind. "In Jesus we see our God made visible, and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see."

It also gives the answer to the question we must all consider at some time: "Why are we here at all?" St. Augustine summed it up: "You have made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts will not rest until they rest in you." So God became a man in Jesus, and it is in the human life of the man Jesus that our God is revealed.

God became one like us – extraordinary really – in fact, no words could convey the power and the mystery of what we celebrate. He was born in humble surroundings. He lived his life as an example for you and for me. John the Baptist is the larger than life figure in the Gospel reading this weekend. "Prepare a way for the Lord" is his blunt but honest message. His call for repentance, or change of heart, is a timely message for us all in this Advent – a time of waiting and preparation for the great feast of Christmas.

May the joys of this blessed feast be in the hearts of everybody who reads this Bulletin today.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY GIFT MASS

this Weekend Sunday 10th December, 12.15 pm
Celebrating the birth of Jesus,
and remembering those less fortunate in our area.
We would like to ask for non-perishable food gifts
for St. Vincent de Paul to be presented at Mass.

**Also, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Collection
takes place this weekend**

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE TOGETHER

NEXT SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

5.00 P.M.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE HERE

Bring a friend. Come as family.

A MOMENT OF GRACE!

For me Liturgy is about people gathering together to pray. My experience of participating in our Advent Carol Service was one of joy. A service that was conceived, planned and executed by laypeople for all the faithful so effectively has been a grace-filled experience.

We began in the darkness and the congregation of several hundred lit their candles as the glow filled us with an air of expectancy, hope and peace. We journeyed together through the Word of God proclaimed so wonderfully by the young people. Our choir led us in the refrain O Come, O Come Emmanuel and also sang with such reverence leading us deeper into prayer, as the candles were brought one by one from the symbolic islands of light to be placed around the empty crib, reminding us why we were there.

Great credit is due to all: Carmel and Mary for their creations of the islands of light and the symbols, the young readers, members of the parish liturgy group, Church Choir, Director Patrick Killeen for his wonderful direction and creative driving force, Gertrude and Jackie and all who helped, well done. Our parish is truly blessed and may the Light of Christ continue to grace us through the rest of Advent..
Fr. Christy Fitzgerald



Oonagh O'Herlihy (nee Ryan), Model Farm Road, died unexpectedly in the Mercy Hospital on 20th November after a short illness. A native of Glantane, Mallow, Oonagh became a nurse and married in Buttevant to Dr. Neil O'Herlihy. Widowed in 1962, she moved to Cork with her young family of five daughters and one son. (the late Brendan). Nursing first in Our Lady's Hospital, she moved to the Cheshire Home where her great work as Matron will long be remembered. Despite her onerous duties in the day to day running of the Home, she devoted herself tirelessly to fundraising to establish and equip the Home. Oonagh was a great family person, not only for her own immediate family but the wider circle of relatives and connections, showing particular interest in the elderly ones among them. She will be welcomed home by many who have gone before her. Blessed with good health and great faith, up to a few months ago she was able to come to Church here daily, not only for Mass but for her visit to the Lord and the Stations. Hopefully she will continue to pray for us all. To her daughters Jackie, Mary, Catherine, Dympna and Finola, to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a wider circle of family and friends, we offer sincere sympathy. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh si.

Elizabeth (Chrissie) Buckley, Laburnum Drive, died peacefully at her home on 23rd November. Her cousin, Fr. Tim Casey, St. Vincent's, Sunday's Well, celebrated her Requiem Mass with concelebrants, Canon Finbarr Kelleher, P.P. Cloyne, and Dean O'Connor. In his homily, Fr. Tim said Chrissie's life had three distinct phases. The first as a young girl in Farnanes, her second as a young married woman in Aherla, and the third in Laburnum where she and her husband came to reside almost thirty years ago. Unfortunately, her husband died at a comparatively young age, but Chrissie regained her old cheerful disposition and inspired by her friend, Joan Leonard, she took up art and proved wonderfully successful. Her religion was a great source of strength to Chrissie, she joined the Third Order of St. Francis' Church, and joined in the Radio Mass from C.U.H. when unable to attend. We extend our sincere sympathy to her sons Declan and Matt, her daughter Marian, grandchildren, and all her relatives and many friends.

Jean Sheridan Healy, Model Farm Road, died peacefully in her 91st year on 24th November in Mount Desert. A native of Oldcastle, Co. Meath, she was one of the first women journalists in the country working with the Irish Independent in Dublin until she met her husband, J.G. Healy, and moved to Cork, where she became the local correspondent for the Irish Press. Her competence and integrity were widely appreciated as well as her highlighting local issues and personalities in the national media, from a Cork perspective, of course. Being left a young widow forty-three years ago brought its own extra family responsibilities, but she was always the welcoming home-maker. Many who enjoyed her hospitality were present to share the beautiful Requiem Mass celebrated by Fr. Brian Nolan, C.M. a family friend for many years. Jean would have appreciated the involvement of friends and family, especially her grandchildren whom she so dearly loved. To this wide circle of family and friends, we offer our sincerest sympathies and most especially to her children, Olivia, Michael, Isabel and Teresina. May she rest in peace.

Bible Corner

INDEED, WE ARE GLAD



It often happens in life that the young understudy takes over from the person in place and puts a personal stamp on the situation. The gloomy prophet of last weekend, Jeremiah, had an understudy secretary Baruch, who did just that. He almost surpassed his employer in his whingeing about the fate of his compatriots in exile in Babylon. Suddenly, there is a change. The exiles are about to return and he cannot contain his joy. So in this weekend's reading, he evokes new pride and joy in this return.

Past failure will be wiped out and ignominies forgotten. There is no limit to what God will do for his people. What marvels the Lord works for us. Indeed, we are glad.

Fr. Tom Clancy

P.S. This reading is also a trailer for next Sunday's Penitential Service (17th December, 5.00 p.m.)

NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Pastoral Council

Meeting Monday 11th in the Parish Centre at 8.10 p.m.

Gaelscoil Uí Riada

Cuimhni 21 bliain - A Photographic Celebration of 21 years at a Social Night on Thursday, 14th December 2006 in The Club House, Bishopstown GAA at 8.30 p.m. The book, to be launched by the Lord Mayor, Michael Ahern, will contain photographs of all past and present pupils, together with articles and achievements, etc.

Knock Marriage Introduction Bureau

The aim of the Bureau is to introduce people considering marriage to a suitable marriage partner. Over 800 marriages have taken place as a result of these introductions. For further information contact the Bureau at Knock, phone 094-9375960, website www.knockmarriagebureau.com

L'Arche Craft Fair

Sunday 10th from 10am to 5pm behind Togher Church. Entrance free. Beautiful gifts, great raffle prizes, excellent choirs.



The Word of God

A Parishioner's Thoughts

Thanks and praise to you Lord for your Word.
When everything I read and see around me is doom
and gloom it is so refreshing to read your Word.
It fills me with hope and consolation, and gives me
peace and joy in my heart.

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