

# Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

17th December, 2006

Third Sunday of Advent

No. 903

## God's Word

Readings for Sunday  
24th December

First Reading:

Is 62:1-5

Psalms 88

Second Reading:

Acts 13:16-17,22-25

Gospel:

Mt. 1:1-2

## OUR PARISH PRIEST WRITES

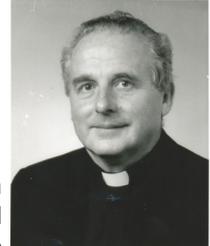
### DIVINE OPPORTUNITY

To be truly human is to relate to others in friendship and in love, in trust and in security, in forgiveness and acceptance, in generosity and in joy. This is how God made us and intends us to be. It is how he relates to each of us and fashions us in his own image. His work on us is work in progress. He is not finished with us yet. So through human imperfection, selfishness, hurt, under pressure, or by deliberate choice, we damage our core relationships. Then, we have a choice. We either allow the damage to fester and worsen or we seek out the healing power of love to make good the damage our selfishness has caused.

In other words, we look for reconciliation. We ask for merciful forgiveness. We tentatively build bridges of healing. We make new beginnings through a power greater than ourselves, love. It may be our relationships with each other and/or with God that need attention in the run up to Christmas. Nothing is more important.

In many ways, this is what Christmas is all about. It is about God coming to share our humanity, so that we can share in his godliness by accepting his forgiveness and imitating it in all our relationships. Such is our glorious destiny. To settle for less is unworthy of our humanity and our godliness.

Our Parish Reconciliation Service this Sunday 17th at 5.00pm is an opportunity to celebrate God's ongoing work among us. Come to leave the guilt behind. Come because you are worth it.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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Emergency Number:  
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✂Please cut out and keep for reference.....

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CHURCH SERVICES

### MASSES

**Sunday 24th - Christmas Eve**

9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm, 6.15pm (Family Mass)  
12 Midnight

**Christmas Day:** 9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm

**Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th:** 10.00am

**Saturday 30th:** 10.00, 6.15pm

**Sunday 31st:** 9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm

**Monday 1st to Thursday 4th:** 10.00am

**Friday 5th January (First Friday)** 9.00, 10.00,  
Vigil Mass 7.30pm

**Saturday 6th January Feast of the Epiphany:**  
9.00, 10.30, 6.15pm

### RECONCILIATION SERVICES

**Dennehy's Cross:** Sunday 17th at 5 pm.

**Sacred Heart Church:** Monday 18th at 8 pm.

**Wilton:** Wednesday 20th at 7.30 pm.

**Curraheen:** Wednesday 20th at 8 pm.

### CONFESSIONS

**Saturday 23rd:**

10.30-12.30, 4.00-6.00, 7.00-7.30 pm

**Sunday 24th:**

4.00-5.00pm

## REMINDER

Don't forget our **RECONCILIATION SERVICE** this Sunday 17th at 5.00pm. Bring the family or a friend.



**Joan Leonard**, Wilton Road, died peacefully on 27th November in Mount Desert where she had lived since a stroke left her incapacitated a few years ago. However, even there Joan maintained her interest in the neighbours and their welfare that had been a feature of her whole life. She was a one time member of the Parish Council and a great contact between both the ill and elderly and the wider community. Her other interests ranged from bridge to gardening, from pitch & putt to landscape painting which made her well known and a friend to many. Faith and family were central to Joan's life and both sustained her especially in her years of declining health. To her good husband Jim, her daughter Mary, sons John, Jerome and Richard, the wide circle of family and friends we offer our sincerest sympathy. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sí i gconuí.

**Mary O'Sullivan**, Fernhurst Terrace, College Road, died on 28th November in hospital. She had been ill and cared for at home for over four years, but even so, her leaving us was quite unexpected. She was much loved by the neighbours and appreciated especially by the elderly infirm close by over many years. At her funeral, she was described as one in a million with a heart of gold. In turn, in her own long illness, she was lovingly cared for by Eddie especially, and her family. Their love and her faith sustained her in her suffering. A Northsider by birth, she chose to be buried in Rathcooney among her own kith and kin. She will be greatly missed by her husband Eddie, children Ber and Eddie, grandchildren Aoife and Ronan, her sisters and brothers, and a wider circle of family and friends, to all of whom we extend our sincerest sympathies. Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a hanam dílis.

**Sean Cuningham**, Wilton Gardens, died peacefully on 29th November at St. Luke's Home where he had received wonderful loving care for the last five years of his life. He was reared in Dillon's Cross where his passion for sport began with hurling but expanded later to include rugby especially. His professional life began at Eagle Printing before he branched out into his own business. Business life led him to Rotary which was only one of his many voluntary contributions to the community through the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, Cork Film Festival and many others. As Fr. Tom remarked during Sean's beautiful funeral Mass, it was as altar boys that he had first met Sean, and faith remained a cornerstone of Sean's life always. Of course, family was the focus of Sean's life, as with Dolores he raised, celebrated and enjoyed life together with their daughter and three sons. At his funeral he was well described as "a gentleman, a loving spouse and a brilliant Dad". He will be missed by many. To his wife Dolores, children Sylvia, Paul, Alan and Marc, and the wider circle of family and friends, we offer our sincerest sympathy. Fé choimirce Mhuire, go raibh sé.

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS

SUNDAY 24TH AT 6.15 P.M.

Children's practice on Wednesday 20th at 3 pm

## THANK YOU

Fr. Tom and Dean O'Connor thank very sincerely all parishioners who have returned their dues so promptly. Your every support is greatly appreciated.

### Crypt Bridge Club

We wish all our members a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and New year. We will resume Bridge on 16th January 2007, D.V. at 2.00 p.m. sharp, and will be delighted to welcome you all back again.

Why not include **Fair Trade** gifts in your shopping list this Christmas? **Fair Trade** food products are available in Tesco, Quay Co-op, Sullivan's Quay, Oxfam Fairtrade Shop, 18 French Church St. and Lotus Fair Trade, 50 Cornmarket St. Both Oxfam and Lotus Fair Trade also stock a range of jewellery, scarves and home textiles.

Ireland's First  
Fairtrade Parish



## PASTORAL COUNCIL

At the meeting on 11th December the Council passed a vote of thanks to all involved in the Advent Carol Service on 3rd December.

Work to be carried out to redecorate and improve lighting in the church porches is expected to commence in the new year.

The Council invites suggestions for projects from parishioners for the year ahead.

## TURKWEL CONFIRMATIONS

Turkwel parish in Kenya to whom this parish sent serious financial help earlier in the year, is having Confirmation today, 17th December. We pray God's blessing on the children being confirmed, on their families and on the whole parish.

Spirit of the living God, come upon them.



### The Word of God A Parishioner's Thoughts

"I will...lead her into the desert and speak to her heart." (Hosea 2:16)

When I reflect on the Word of God,  
I hear Jesus' voice say to me:  
"I love you. Do not be afraid."