

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

24th December, 2006

Christmas

No. 904

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
31st December

First Reading
1 Sam 1:20-22,24-28

Psalm 83

Second Reading
1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24

Gospel
Lk 2:41-52



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or give it to a
friend or neigh-
bour

THE JOY OF GIFTS

A cornerstone of our Christmas celebration is gift giving. Somewhere deep within us we all want to imitate our God in whose image we are made. What marks out our God is that he is the unconditional giver of gifts and he is motivated solely by unselfish love. Life, in all its aspects, is his gift, crowned with the gift of himself, especially celebrated at this Christmas time.

Gift giving is intended to be a celebration of creative love, of bonding the giver and the recipient. A gift must be acknowledged, accepted with joy and responded to in thanksgiving. It must be a symbol of our own self-giving. Only then is a gift's purpose fully achieved.

Gift giving is a custom that may be exaggerated or exploited. It may become routine or even, hypocritical. But we must not succumb to such abuse. Treasure the gift celebration. Nurture the genuine bonding in friendship and love. After all, it was God the Father began it by giving us the gift of his Son, Jesus. We cannot do better than imitating him in thanksgiving and joy.

May he continue to shower his gifts and blessings upon you.

Happy Christmas.

Fr. Tom Clancy, PP

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THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Sheila Meade, The Belfry, Model Farm Road, died in Marymount on 8th December. Although Sheila had polio from babyhood, she never allowed that to cramp her style. According to herself, she had a great life, loved her job in the B & I, and had many wonderful holidays. Only in the past couple of years did her life become limited. Sheila had a great capacity for enjoyment. Her warm and welcoming personality, her interest in everything and everyone won her many friends. People were forever dropping in or phoning. And she had time for us all. We extend our sincerest sympathy to her sister Nora, brother-in-law Michael, nieces Mary and Liz, nephew-in-law Noel, grandnephew Michael, grandnieces Fiona, Karen, Lidhan and Maebh, relatives, and her innumerable friends. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Joseph P Nesdale, Orchard Road, died peacefully in Marymount on 10th December. Aged only 68, Joe had struggled heroically with motor neurone disease over several years. Despite his deteriorating mobility, Joe made the most of every day God gave him. This was facilitated by the dedicated care of his wife Carmen, and family, and it was complemented by a wide array of friends from golf, rugby, scouts, swimming and many other circles. Rugby was Joe's first sporting love so Presentation College and Rockwell were represented at his funeral Mass as were his clubs like Landsdowne, London-Irish and Barcelona. The church choir, of which he had been a member, enriched his funeral liturgy. A great family man, he will be greatly missed by them and by a wide circle of friends. To his wife Carmen, daughters Claire-Louise and Gemma, his son Michael, his six siblings, his nieces and nephews, we offer our sincerest sympathy. Ar dheis Dé, go raibh a anam dílis.

IN SYMPATHY

Maurice O'Regan, Greenfields, Model Farm Road, died unexpectedly on 2nd December. We extend the sympathy of our community to his wife Anne, his sons Mark, Niall and Kieran, and to the extended family.

Billy Heffernan, Laburnum Park and London, had his bags packed and air ticket secured to fly home for Christmas when the Lord called him to his home in Heaven instead. We extend our sympathy to his brother Dermot, Laburnum Park, and to his other brothers John, Noel, Raymond and Gerald, and the members of the extended family, and his many friends.

The events of the first Christmas have an ageless wonder and freshness which time cannot diminish, or human understanding fully comprehend. The Christmas Story is, of course, the greatest love story in the history of humankind. The glory of Jesus' birth is that he is the authentic living reality of his father's love for us. "Behold, this day a Saviour is born" the angel announced to the frightened shepherds.

The Christmas story is not some biblical fairytale - Mary and Joseph were real people who experienced uncertainty, rejection, fear and pain. However, their faith and obedience to God's will sustained them in every situation.

With so many distractions, such as shopping, presents, cards and a non-stop supply of pious consumerism, there is for many of us a frenetic pace and stress-filled countdown to Christmas. Finding time to think, let alone pray, can be the challenge.

Maybe now is the time to take time out for reflecting, praying, allowing the wisdom and power of God into our lives. Think about it - better still, do it.

Arthur O'Callaghan

Church Service for the Coming Weeks

Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th: 10.00am

Saturday 30th: 10.00, 6.15pm

Sunday 31st: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm

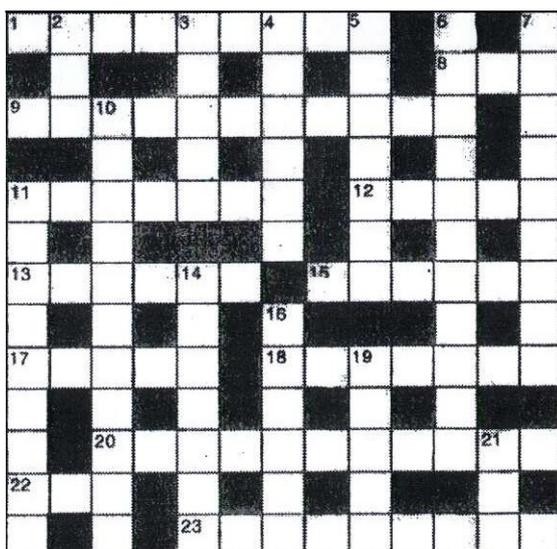
Monday 1st to Thursday 4th: 10.00am

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

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD by Portia



Across

1. Eat your fill here and you will be loaded with energy. (9)
8. Someone in a row needs this. (3)
9. Felt tight or confused - go in a certain direction (5,2,4)
11. Red mare goes wild for this visionary. (7)

12. To gain admittance you must do this. (5)
13. Group of people not welcome, at the start. (6)
15. Sublime messengers, also personal minders. (6)
17. Opt for such special people. (6)
18. No disagreement or discord here. (7)
20. Displayed by those of poor discrimination. (4,2,5)
22. Included in the result is last month. (3)
23. To be like this one would be very crafty indeed. (3,2,1,3)

Down

2. Deliberate and find Old Testament priest inside. (3)
3. Like 7 down, but still one of our own - entirely so. (2,3)
4. A broad change, on the ship. (6)
5. He was with us long before 3 down or 7 down. (3,4)
6. Head for the kennels, but proceed steadily downhill. (2,2,3,4)
7. He was one of our own, or partly so for a short time - a very tall story. (2, 7)
10. He went away sad, for he was a man of... Mk. 10. (5,6)
11. Crack that kernel, out of extreme exasperation. (2,4,3)
14. Uses one's powers of persuasion - as a spider to the fly. (7)
16. Being so, one doesn't decide in a hurry. (6)
19. Sounds like entitlements, these religious practices. (5)
21. Sounds like a pair as well. (3)

Entries to Parish office by Sunday 7th January please

