

Ballineaspaig Bulletin



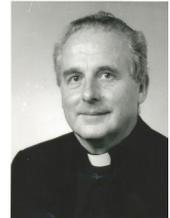
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

9th December 2007

Second Sunday of Advent

No.944

Fr. Tom writes:



WITHOUT HOPE OF REWARD

God's Word

Readings for Sunday
16th December

First Reading:
Is 35:1-6, 10

Psalm 145

Second Reading
Jas 5:7-10

Gospel
Mt 11:2-11

This weekend is an opportunity to begin our Christmas generosity as individuals, as families, as communities. The Christmas collection for those dependent on St. Vincent de Paul takes place at the church door before and after Mass. The usual bringing of bread and wine to the altar is enhanced by the younger members of the family of bringing a food gift to the altar to help the Christmas celebrations of the needy in our city. As both the money and the food gifts are given anonymously, they are truly given without hope of reward.

To give in such a way is the cornerstone of love as well as its flowering. Some of our Christmas giving is in anticipation of a reciprocal gift or favour. Such giving is an investment rather than a generous gift, an insurance premium rather than a building up of love.

To be willing and able to genuinely put another or others at the centre of one's life is the foundation of loving. It is the greatness for which we are created. It is the fulfilment that leads to inner peace. To give is more blessed than to receive.

To introduce the young to the experience of giving without hope of reward is to bless them beyond measure. To share such an ongoing experience with them is one of the most precious gifts you can give them at Christmas. It will enrich their relationships forever. It will enable them to grow in love of family and of the wider human family.

It will prepare them to experience God, the one who always gives unconditionally without hope of reward. It will mould them on His image to be great lovers. What more could we give anyone for Christmas? What more could anyone want for Christmas?

To love and to be loved without hope of reward is my Christmas wish for you.

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

Email: holyspiritparish@eircom.net

Website: www.dennehyscrossparish.ie

Children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 6.15pm

A reminder that on this Monday 10th December at 3.00pm we will have a preliminary gathering in the church of schoolchildren who wish to take part in the Christmas Eve Mass.

We need a number of willing parents to help with the smooth running of this event. Contact Fr. Tom, please.

NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to Parish Homes

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Monthly meeting this Monday 10th in the Parish Centre at 8.15pm.

God's Coming - Incarnation and Eucharist

A talk by Rev. Fr. Tom Clancy, next Wednesday 12th at 8.00pm in Brú Columbanus. All welcome, admission free. Light refreshments provided.

Christmas Concert

In aid of Enable Ireland at the Lough Parish Church on Saturday 15th December with Regina Nathan, Brian Callinan, Louise O'Sullivan and choirs. Tickets €20 from Lough Church, Pro Musica, or Cork Opera House.

Naomi Pre-Marriage Courses

Run over Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon at University College main campus. Cost €90 per couple. For dates in 2008 please contact 4272213 mornings, Monday to Friday.

The Catholic Unattached Directory

The modern fun way to make new friends or even meet someone special, run by practising Catholics for practising Catholics. Call 01-2837888 or write to us at 10 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1. email: help@cathud.com. Website: www.cathud.com

Bible Corner

New Leadership



Keeping hope in the future alive was a key part of Isaiah's life. True enough, he devoted great energy in reprimanding the past and current failures of his contemporaries, especially where they blocked the arrival of God's reign of justice, peace and love. Despite the near disasters of his time, Isaiah knew that there was a saviour coming from God who would lead his people out of their failures and despair. To do that is the challenge facing genuine leadership.

This weekend the first reading and the psalm highlight in vivid imagery the effects this leader's coming will have. Just as Isaiah looked forward, so must we to a new coming of our saviour. He comes to change our hearts.

"In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless."

What leadership in change, will you give this Advent?

Fr. Tom Clancy

My God in My Everyday

Parishioners' Thoughts



I Find God in the Church of the Holy Spirit

God is close in the beauty of the building - the Pentecost mosaic gleaming by day, the rose window glowing at night. Close especially in the gifts of so many volunteers (from eight to eighty), the smile of the welcomers, neighbours exchanging greetings, the dedication of our priests... In Advent the haunting notes of the choir, the heart-stirring peace of the Reconciliation service, and the splendour and simplicity of Midnight Mass.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at Dennehy's Cross Church

Please join us tonight Sunday 9th December 7.00 p.m.
Advent Carols, Readings and Ritual by Candlelight
Gift yourself some quiet time in preparation for Christmas
All welcome