

Ballineaspig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

30th November 2008

First Sunday of Advent

No. 985

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 7th
December

First Reading:
Is 40:1-5,9-11

Psalm 84

Second Reading:
2 Pet 3:8-14

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8

FR. TOM WRITES

A DIFFERENT WORLD



Just think about this. How different life would be if each one of us told the truth, admitting to what we do not know and acknowledging our mistakes and failures. For this to happen, we would need trust and love in abundance. Truth and trust are intertwined. We often fail to tell the truth because we don't trust the other person's reaction and where truth is abused, trust is shattered and love may die.

We often recognise this more obviously in others' lives. Can you imagine the difference in national life if politicians only spoke the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the Dáil and outside? Such truth and trust could be the foundation upon which a real national recovery could be built. On all sides, there are cries for real leadership. Deviousness, cuteness, innuendo are no substitute for the real thing locally, nationally, in Church or State or media or elsewhere.

It may seem an impossible dream or a long journey. But every journey starts with the first step. Each of us can take the first step. Speak the truth each day in small matters. Think positively, and avoid cynicism. Protect our closest relationships and homes from the cancer of the lie. Build trust so that love may flourish.

This must surely be the Advent invitation to every follower of Jesus as Christmas approaches. Remember the Spirit of God can enable us to surprise even ourselves if we give him scope.

Live the truth.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

HOW DOES THE BALLINEASPAIG CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD WORK?

You buy a gift from a range of 13 gifts from €5 for a child mosquito's net or clinic building blocks up to €100 for the roof of a children's room.

You receive a card listing the gift you have chosen, which you can send as a Christmas gift to a friend or relative.

The money you've paid is sent entirely to Turkwel Parish.

The Turkwel parish priest, Fr. Oliver Noonan, in conjunction with the Catholic diocese and the people of the parish, will use the money to buy building materials and medical equipment and to employ local workmen to build the Clinic.

Photographs of the completed Clinic and an account of how the money was spent will be published in the *Ballineaspig Bulletin* next year.

This weekend's **SPECIAL OFFER:**

Buy Life-saving Drugs for €40 and get a Clinic window (value €10) free.

**VOCATION AWARENESS WEEKEND
6TH AND 7TH DECEMBER**

Vocation Sunday 2008 marked the beginning of a 'Year of Vocation' in the Irish Catholic Church and will continue until Vocation Sunday on 2009 (3rd May). The threefold theme of the year - Called to **Love**, Called to **Serve**, Called to **Witness** - includes all vocations within the Church.

Whatever we do, whoever we are - whether we are single, or married, young or older, priest or religious - it will have something to say to each one of us in our following of Jesus Christ.

It will help us deepen and appreciate our belonging to the Church. An important feature of this year is the promotion of Priesthood and Religious Life.

During next weekend 6th-7th December we, in Ballineaspiga Parish, are invited to focus on and appreciate our own particular call, asking the Lord to deepen our belonging to Him. There will be a short input on the topic of 'Vocation' at the 6.15pm and 10.30am Masses over the weekend and 'Vocation Literature' will be on display in the Church.



THE ADVENT WREATH

Many centuries ago during the dark days of winter people in Eastern Europe gathered wreaths of evergreen branches and lit fires as a sign of hope and a reminder that Spring was on its way. This tradition was adopted by the Christians and by the 17th century the Advent wreath was used throughout Germany to mark the time spent waiting for the birth of the Christ Child at Christmas. From Germany this tradition spread.

Usually the Advent wreath is made with four candles - three purple and one pink. The candles remind us that Christ is the Light of the World. They are lit in the following order: weeks one and two are purple; week three pink; week four purple. The colour purple is used because long ago purple dye was very expensive and purple became a colour that was associated with royalty. For many years Advent was a time of fasting. On the third Sunday of Advent there was a break from this fast and priests wore rose or pink coloured vestments and this tradition became part of the Advent wreath.

Placing the candles in a circle is symbolic of God's love for us - a love that has no beginning or end. The use of evergreen leaves around the candles reminds us that God's love is everlasting.

Jesus is the reason for this Holy Season.

Arthur O'Callaghan

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Monday 8th
December - Holyday of Obligation**

Masses Sun. 7th: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15. Vigil Mass 6.15pm.
Masses Mon 8th: 9.00, 10.30 and 7.30pm.

First Friday

Next Friday 5th December. Calls to the sick and housebound on usual days.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament next Friday 5th from 10.30 to 7.30pm followed by Mass. The final hour of Adoration is dedicated to vocations.

Lectio Divina for Advent

Please join us on Monday mornings after the 10.00am Mass in the Parish Centre to prepare for Christmas.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting next Thursday 3rd in the Parish Centre at 3.00pm.

St. Vincent de Paul

Please note that our annual Christmas church door collection will take place on **weekend of 14/15th December.**

Exhibition of Artwork by Dáithí O hAodha in the gallery space of the Bishopstown Library, Wilton Shopping Centre for the month of December. Official opening by John Gibson on Saturday 6th December at 3pm. Fáilte roimh gach duine.

Choral Evening at St. James's Church, Ballinora in aid of Church Renovation Fund on Monday 8th December at 8pm, tickets €20 available from Mary Beasley 087-7908616.

Alzheimer Society Cork Branch

Meeting of the Saturday Club, from 2pm until 4pm on Saturday 13th December at Bessboro Day Care Centre. A festive musical theme. Light refreshments provided. For further information contact 021 4972504.

L'Arche Christmas Craft Fair, 10.00-5.00pm on Sunday 7th December behind school and church in Togher. Adm. free. Music, crafts, snacks and lots more.

**Cathedral Souvenir Calendar -
a Note from Fr. Declan Mansfield**

As part of the Bicentenary celebrations for the North Cathedral, a magnificent **Souvenir Calendar** has been produced, full of photos, old and new, full of memories and history. It is a Collectors Item. It would make an ideal Christmas gift, for home or abroad.

Price: only €5. Available weekdays from the Parish Office. It will be available in the porches after Masses on the weekend of December 6th and 7th.

All profits from the calendar go towards the Cathedral Parish Debt. Over €450,000 has had to be spent on repainting, replacing the heating unit, installing CCTV for protection, and upgrading the fire and intruder alarms.

Sincere thanks for any support you can give.

- Fr. Declan

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Donal McCarthy**, Scotch Lane, Model Farm Road, on the death of his mother.

Kitty Seward, Bishopstown Avenue West, on the death of her sister, Nora Kelleher.

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