

Ballineaspig Bulletin



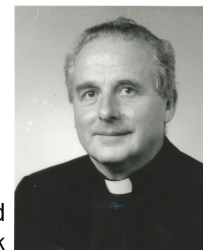
CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

20th December, 2009

Fourth Sunday in Advent

No. 1020

CONDITIONING



I like the early morning radio news but now I am inclined to avoid it. With its accounts of road accidents, violence, recession, scandals and abuse, it seems to be conditioning me to look negatively or even, fearfully, at the world and at the day ahead. Beginning with such a negative outlook may be treacherous as it may never lift.

There is another way. One can choose to focus on the opportunities each new day brings, opportunities of enjoying family and friends, asking God's blessing on the day and turning to his way of seeing things, of enriching others' lives, of seeing the glass as half full rather than half empty. True, the bad news has to be faced but it is better done with some positivity on board. Just as doctors recommend a good breakfast for bodily wellbeing, the human spirit needs nourishing before facing the day.

Another aspect of media conditioning is to always look for somebody to blame, a scapegoat if you like. True enough, wrong doers must be brought to book and pay for the wrong but the priority must always be to rectify the wrong and heal the broken. But finding a scapegoat can be self-comforting. We feel that with somebody blamed for the major crimes, our little selfish misdemeanours can slip under the radar. Scapegoat conditioning blinds us to our selfishness in ignoring the opportunities of goodness that come our way. It is a slippery slope. Our hearts are easily coarsened. Truth is often the first casualty. We become desensitised, unaware of our indifference to another's pain, unaware of how well off we are relatively. Such unawareness may even grow during the run in to Christmas.

One possible antidote is to come to the parish reconciliation service this Sunday (20th at 5.00pm) with its opportunity to be reminded of God's love, his generosity, his forgiveness and of our own inherent goodness that may have become overgrown through the cares of the world's seduction.

Let us pray for one another for the freedom of spirit to keep hope alive not only in the dark of morning but throughout each day.

Fr. Tom

Reminder !

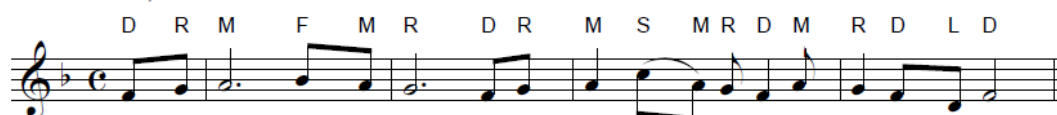
The 2010 Collection Envelopes are available in the Parish Office after all Masses this weekend, for those who have already signed on, and those who may wish to do so for 2010.

A member of the Finance committee will be available to answer any questions you may have.

WEEKEND PSALM

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

Patrick Killeen



God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

At a meeting of all the Groups and Ministries in the parish on the 9th November a small group was nominated to form a coordinating Committee for the upcoming Golden Jubilee Celebrations. We are inviting suggestions from parishioners for the forthcoming celebrations in September 2010, to coincide with our 50th anniversary on 25th September 2010.

Please submit all ideas by the end of January 2010 to the Pastoral Council Jubilee Coordinating committee c/o Parish Office.

David Clifford, Chairperson Pastoral Council

NOTICE BOARD

Traditional Irish Music Classes

Organised by Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Baile an Easpaig, available for adults and children - tin whistle, flute, fiddle, banjo, piano, harp, button accordion, on Thursday evenings 7-9pm starting mid-January 2010 at St. Catherine's National School, Bishopstown. All classes dependent on demand. Contact Grace Kearney 087-2723245 or Sinead Hanrahan 085-7418021.

WHAT TO DO WITH UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS ??

All unwanted Christmas gifts may be brought to the church and will be distributed to **Local Charities** in January. This is the second year to share our excesses with the less fortunate in the community. The generosity experienced last year was amazing and we hope this year will be as successful. The appreciation shown by the charities make the effort worthwhile and the demands on them are enormous.

You are invited to leave your unwanted gifts by the crib before/after Masses on January 2nd and 3rd. Only **NEW** items can be accepted.

Once again, we thank you for sharing last year and wish you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to our church choir member, **MARGARET MURPHY**, Halldene, Bishopstown, on the death of her husband Jim.

AUTUMN DUES

Our sincere thanks to the many parishioners who have sent in their generous Dues and to those who will do so. A word of appreciation to our courteous distributors/collectors who facilitated the good work. Happy Christmas to one and all.

- The priests of the parish

CONTACT DETAILS

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087-251 9940

God's Word

Readings for Sunday 27
December

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

Psalm 83

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

Gospel:
Lk 2:441-52

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CHURCH SERVICES

MASSES

Thursday 24th - Christmas Eve

9.00, 10.00. 6.15pm (Family Mass), Midnight.

Christmas Day : 9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm

Saturday 26th : 9.00, 10.00am and 6.15pm

Sunday 27th : 9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm

Mon 28th to Thurs 31st : 9.00 and 10.00am

First Friday 1st January : 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd January : 9.00, 10.00, and 6.15pm

Sunday 3rd January : 9.00, 10.30 and 12.15pm

Monday 4th : 9.00, 10.00

Tuesday, 5th : 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30pm

Wed. 6th Feast of the Epiphany : 9.00, 10.30, 7.30pm

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Dennehy's Cross: Sunday 20th at 5 pm.

Sacred Heart Church: Monday 21st at 7.30pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 19th : 12.00 - 1.00pm, before 6.15pm
Vigil Mass

Thursday 24th : 12.00-1.00pm, 4.00 - 5.00pm,
before and after 6.15pm Mass.



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