



This 'State of the Parish' (as opposed to the Nation!) address was scheduled to co-incide with the final Sunday of the Church's Calender year (last week-end) but had to be postponed till this weekend at the last minute! Our financial report that formed part of that account had the carpet unexpectedly pulled out

from underneath it just days before.

Why? – because the Grinds' School having asked us last June/July to accommodate their requirements until May of next year with a certain number of rooms every week (and thereby ensure a certain monthly rental income for us as well of course) just "up-sticks and pulled-out" of that agreement the week before last. This leaves us now, not only with a shortfall in our projected income to pay our bank loan, but much less besides! Because we had already declined other interested groups prepared to use those same rooms on the basis that we had given our word to the Grinds' School, we have effectively lost out on that alternative source of income as well.

The best one can hope for at this stage, for those still involved with these guys, is that they give grinds better than they give their word. Because, being short on the latter in their dealings with us, we're back now to having to rethink our finances. Whatever happened to the working principle that *someone's word was their bond*? Our Finance committee has had to adjust their end of year report in the light of all that, which you will hear about at today's Masses.

Staying with the question of Education for our primary school-going children: the disappointment of many parents continues to be palpable as the lack of any available place/space means their first choice of St Brigid's cannot be accommodated for their child this year. Our two school Principals know all about that first hand.

I couldn't help but think of parents' disappointment and the frustration of our own best efforts over many years to improve matters as I heard the Minister for Education on radio last Thursday, expand on his vision for schooling – consulting widely as he claims he does with parents. He went on to say, amongst other things, that his vision and respect for parents would 'put manners on schools'!! what an extraordinary way of expressing himself. Is this a by-product perhaps of his insistence earlier in the interview that he himself is a 'committed practising atheist'. I can't help but wonder if someone in his position declared themselves to be a committed practicing Roman Catholic how that would go down! A lead balloon comes to mind. Just a thought with which you might be able to help me with on this 1st Sunday of Advent! How does one practice 'Atheism'?

A O'N



Weekend Intentions

Along with their families and friends the following people are especially remembered this weekend. This time of the year holds a special significance for all those who knew and who loved them.

6.30pm – John & Mary Gibbons – Anniv & Ida Gibbons – Recently Deceased

8.30 am – Kathleen Owens - Anniversary

10.30am – Mass for those whose Anniversary occurs in December

12.30pm – Brendan Reynolds – 6th Anniv

4.30pm – John McKean – 14th Anniversary

11.30 am – Jack Binchy – Anniversary

Rec Dec: Denis Luby, Mary O'Mahoney, Hugh Merrins

Anniversaries: Niall Walsh (2nd Anniv), Nuala McGee (2nd Anniv) Christopher O'Rourke (4th Anniv)

The Three Tenors

Will be giving a concert in the **Parish Church on Sunday 8th December.**

They will be joined by the Choirs of St Brigid's Boys and Girls Schools during the concert. Tickets are €25 and are available for sale in the Parish Office- ph: 2858835.

Tickets for the concert will be for sale after all Masses this weekend (30 Nov & 1 Dec).

St.Brigid's Cross

We in St.Brigid's are planning to unveil our **4th St.Brigid's Cross** in the Church before December 25th. If you wish to purchase a brick with an engraving of your choice, please contact the Parish Office for a booking form. Bricks cost €100 each and it's a lovely way to remember family events – baptisms, weddings, anniversaries etc.

A unique Christmas Gift for family or friend. Closing date for orders is Wednesday, 11th December.