

EUROSPAR

The supereasy supermarket

PAY LESS THAN THE REST!

Stock up for Christmas

Selected Beers 24 pack x 500ml Cans
 Carling €23.99 €2.00 per lt/ Carlsberg €24.99 €2.08 per lt/
 Coors Light €29.99 €2.50 per lt/ Molson Canadian €25.99 €2.17 per lt

Smirnoff
 Vodka 700ml
 €15.00 per 70cl

Jameson
 Whiskey 700ml
 €18.00 per 70cl

Customer quotas will apply

Our Price From €23.99
 Tesco From €30

Only €15
 Dunnes €22.69

Only €18
 Tesco €23

McVitie's
 Victoria Biscuits
 500g €11.38 per kg

Our Price €5.69
 Tesco €6

SPAR
 6 Mince Pies
 See instore for details

Our Price €1
 Tesco €2

Serving Suggestion

Connollys
 Premium Rolled & Boned Gammon
 2.8kg €4.82 per kg

Our Price €13.50*
 2.8kg

Washed Roosters
 7.5kg 53c per kg

Our Price €3.99
 Tesco €6.49

YES TO IRISH!
 Supporting Irish Producers

Poinsettia
 Irish Grown

Only €2.49*

Club Orange Cans
 7UP Regular/Free Cans
 12 Pack 12x330ml €1.14 per lt

Our Price €4.50
 Tesco €7.89

Cheaper than other Supermarkets

Dr Mark Dooley

MORAL MATTERS



I cherish this light that will never go out

IT IS four in the afternoon and the sun has already disappeared behind the Dublin Mountains. As the evening shadows stretch across our kitchen, I perform a time-honoured Dooley ritual. I strike a match before filling the room with candlelight.

Much to the consternation of my wife, I love the short days of December. Mrs Dooley is a summer person who relishes endless hours of sunlight. She simply cannot understand how I can enjoy the onset of dusk at lunchtime.

If I do so, it is because there is, as the Bible instructs, 'a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die'. The deep dark winter is nature's time to sleep. And because we too are natural creatures, it is our time to repose until the sap of life is renewed.

But even my sun-loving spouse cannot help but smile as I light our winter candles. Set against the backdrop of a moon-lit horizon, their warm glow signifies the day is long gone and we are finally at peace. As the wax slowly burns we are drawn together as family, a union of love bound by a single flame.

No lamp, however beautiful, can gather people in that way. What enchants us about the candle is the ceremony which attaches to it.

The lighting of a candle signifies the beginning of something joyful and intimate, something we shall savour long after the wick has been extinguished.

That is why our most intimate and sacred moments are incomplete without candlelight. From birth to death, candles illumine the course of the human journey. At baptism, they symbolise that we are children of Christ's light. The same candle is used again at First Holy Communion and at Confirmation.

In a potent symbol of their union, bride and groom jointly light a candle. At death, the Paschal candle stands beside the coffin of the deceased, a reminder of the deceased's baptismal vows and the eternal light of the Risen Lord. Indeed, a candle burns beside every tabernacle in the world, signifying God's enduring presence.

Candles are burned at times of joy, sorrow and relaxation. Ordinary pursuits such as having a bath are rendered ceremonial in candlelight. And it is the presence of candles on a dining table which makes the difference between feeding and eating.

Candles are also a sign of the inexorable passage of time. Their presence

on the birthday cake is a reminder that, like the candle itself, we are edging closer to extinction. The more candles blazing, the less time left.

The use of candles for timekeeping is a tradition dating back to the 10th Century. First used in China, 'candle clocks' were designed with specific markings to measure time. In some cases, they contained weights which would fall as the wick burned, thus indicating the passing of an hour.

It is remarkable that these simple objects, which first appeared in Europe in the 5th Century, are still so integral to our culture. The fact that many are now scented has seen a renaissance in their use beyond the great rituals and rites. Even in this electrified age, the candle continues to shine as a source of comfort and consolation, a sign that we too can burn with the light of life.

For me, lighting those candles each evening is much more than a seasonal luxury. It conveys a sense of belonging and togetherness, a sense that this home is a place of welcome and warmth. It reminds us that, as humans, our lives are infused with light from another sphere.

ABURNING candle indicates something profound is happening. It might be an act of worship, a rite of passage or a birthday. But even if it is just the evening meal, the presence of that small flame endows the event with a halo of sanctity.

That is why, at dawn on Christmas Eve, I light our candles. For my children, this small act has come to represent the best of times. It captures for them the true spirit of Christmas, a season they associate with home, family and love.

Mrs Dooley may detest the darkness, but she knows 'how far that little candle throws its beams'. She knows that in the absence of candlelight, our memories would be enormously impoverished. She also knows that not even sunlight can drive away the shadows like a burning wick.

The sun is slowly sinking behind the mountains as dusk falls across the Dooley household. My boys have just returned from school, singing songs from their Christmas play. Still high from his recent visit to St Nicholas's grave at Jerpoint Abbey, our five-year-old is doing his imitation of Santa.

Forgive me if I don't linger, but such magical moments deserve to be marked. And what better way to do so than by lighting up our house with those glorious flames which, however transient, will burn in our hearts forever.

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EUROSPAR claim of Pay Less than the Rest is valid on the product offers shown in comparison to prices checked in Tesco Carton Park Maynooth, 22nd Nov 2013, Dunnes Kilnamanagh, 26th Nov 2013, Tesco Celbridge, 26th Nov 2013 and Dunnes Stores Ashleaf Shopping Centre Crumlin, 29th Nov 2013. Prices correct at time of going to print. Receipts available from EUROSPAR Head Office. Offers available from 8th - 15th December 2013 in participating stores while stocks last. Customer quotas may apply. * Exclusions apply: Poinsettia and Connollys Premium Rolled & Boned Gammon are exclusive products for which a direct comparison is not available for competitor price comparison.



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 ON SUNDAY