

## FAMILY MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

THE FAMILY MINISTRY team extend a warm 'Thank You' to all those who have returned the questionnaire. They are delighted with the level of response; in all, so far, 868 parishioners have taken the trouble to participate.

The Team thanks particularly the substantial number of people who offered their services in various ways. Each of those people who put their name to the form will be hearing from the team during this week.

All in all, the team is pleased with the result. Great credit is, of course, due to the valiant people who helped with the distribution in every area of the parish.

All that remains to be done now is for the team to sift through, and analyse, the material. More will be published in this vein in next week's Bulletin.

### News in Brief

OUR TEMPORARY DEACON, the Rev. Denis O'Leary, who has done great work in the schools of the parish flies out to Iceland on Monday, to meet his Bishop. We wish him a pleasant journey, and a happy ministry in that country

## WHAT'S ON

THIS SUNDAY, the new 'Word Alive' series continues in the UNIVERSE. We recommend this series to all those who are anxious to understand better the Sunday readings.

MONDAY is the first day of Spring, the Feast of Brigid, "Muire na nGael".

On Monday night the Pastoral Council have an important meeting. For the first time, officers will be elected, and decisions will be made with regard to sub-committees.

⇒ TUESDAY is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also called Candlemas Day. As is traditional, candles will be blessed before Mass. If you would like to have a candle blessed, bring it along with you to Mass.

⇒ WEDNESDAY is the day we honour St. Blaise, who, for some obscure reason, is associated with ailments of the throat. In accordance with custom, throats will be blessed after each Mass. 9/10/7.30

⇒ FRIDAY is the First Friday of February. Special Confessions on Thursday night after Mass. Calls to the sick will be made on the usual days.

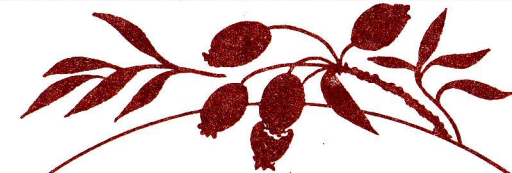
SUNDAY, being the First Sunday of February, sees the monthly St. Vincent dePaul collection.



# BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

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## CONGRATULATIONS



FOR MOST PEOPLE, Wednesday last was Budget Day. But for the people of Ballineaspaig, it had an added significance. For it was on that day that our Pastor, Father Denis O'Connor was appointed Dean of the Cathedral Chapter, in succession to the late Mons. Bastible.

The news was greeted with delight by parishioners. Said Sister Frances, the longest-serving Parish Team member, "He's the right man for the job".

What exactly the job is remains unclear, except it seems to be Bishop Murphy's way of saying 'I think a lot of this guy.'

This honour comes in a special year for our Parish Priest, since he celebrates the 40th anniversary of his Ordination this June. Before being appointed as P.P. in Ballineaspaig in 1984, Fr. Denis served in Youghal, Carrigfadda, Kinsale, Togher, The Cathedral and Farranree.

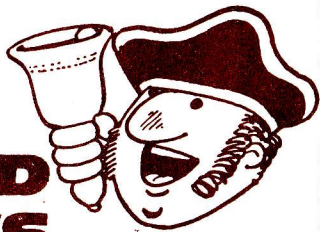
The slightly cynical Editor of the Bulletin asked how our Pastor should now be addressed. 'Your Deanship' ? Or 'your munificence' ? Or 'Supercanon' ? !!! His answer was typically low-key: "If I'm called 'Father', I'll be delighted", he said, "but if you call me anything else, you'll be making a fool of me!"

So let's all take note! And let's pray that Fr. Denis will be our Father in Christ for many a long year!





## GOOD NEWS



FOR THE PAST few years, the Parish team has been concerned about the number of couples who have been getting married outside the Parish.

We know the reason. Couples feel our Parish Church is too big, and prefer the intimacy of the Honan Chapel, or Wilton, or the Sacred Hearts. We understand the dilemma couples have.

Now, at last, we have found a solution. With the approval of the Bishop, and with the kind permission of the Mercy Sisters, St. Catherine's Convent Chapel is now available.

We feel it will suit perfectly wedding groups of less than a hundred. Naturally, it will be available for Ballinaspaig parishioners only.

As usual, the procedure will be to go to one of the priests of the parish, giving the required three months notice. And we'll take it from there!

It's nice to have some good news for you, for a change! We hope it will please our young people.

Our hope is that, because of this arrangement, more will be able to celebrate this marvellous sacrament within their parish community.



## For your information

HEARING THAT OUR P.P. has been appointed Dean of the Cathedral Chapter usually leads to one question in most people's minds: 'What on earth IS the Chapter?'

To put it simply, it is a group of priests, often P.P.s, selected by the Bishop, to act as the Trustees of the Diocese in law. Each member of the Chapter is called a 'Canon', and special posts are held within the Chapter by the Dean and the Archdeacon.

In ancient times, members of the Chapter had no other role but to live at the Cathedral with the Bishop. There they prayed as a community, and advised the Bishop.

Through the years, they have dispersed. Nowadays, most Canons live and work in their own parishes, coming together only occasionally for a Mass and a meeting.

Before the Second Vatican Council, they had great importance in a Diocese. Since the Council, their function has been taken over by the partly elected Priests' Council.

Nevertheless, the elite club that is the Chapter survives. Few would call it little more than an anachronism, a relic of a former age.

In ways, the Chapter is like the 'Swiss Guards' seen at the Vatican. They perform a few basic functions, while others have taken over most of their traditional roles. And they add a dash of colour to important church events.

## Focus On..... The Poor Clares

### HOW DOES A POOR CLARE SPEND THE DAY ?

This can best be answered by taking a look at the Horarium, i.e., the daily timetable:

- 5.15 a.m. Morning Call
- 5.45 a.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Meditation
- 7.10 a.m. Divine Office (The Prayer of the Church, in which all Priests and religious share)
- 7.30 a.m. Mass
- 8.15 a.m. Breakfast
- 8.45 a.m. Work
- 9.45 a.m. Divine Office
- 10.00 a.m. Mass
- 10.30 a.m. Divine Office
- 10.45 a.m. Work
- 11.30 a.m. Spiritual Reading
- 12.00 Noon Divine Office
- 12.15 p.m. Dinner
- 1.15 p.m. Recreation
- 1.45 p.m. Work
- 3.30 p.m. Study Hour
- 4.30 p.m. Divine Office
- 5.00 p.m. Free Time
- 5.30 p.m. Benediction (To which all are welcome - 5.00 on Sundays)
- 5.45 p.m. Evening Meditation
- 6.30 p.m. Supper
- 7.10 p.m. Rosary and Divine Office.
- 8.00 p.m. Retire
- 12.00 Midnight - Divine Office and Midnight Meditation

(In addition, each Sister spends some time in adoration each day, by rota)

NEXT WEEK: HOW HAS THE POOR CLARE LIFE CHANGED OVER THE PAST 60 YEARS ?

## \*MEDIA COMMENT\*

ABORTION IS BACK in the news again. Liberal M.P. David Alton's Private Members Bill was carried, by a comfortable majority, in the U.K. House of Commons.

A lot of rhetoric was used on both sides. For me, the greatest condemnation of abortion came from the pro-abortion side, when one supporter claimed....

"...if we are taking life, and I BELIEVE WE ARE, it has got to be done under serious and controlled conditions.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHURCH UNITY WEEK ended on Monday, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. As far as the media were concerned, it was a non-runner.

At Cork's own inter-church service on Sunday afternoon, Methodist minister Robin Eadie rejoiced that so many Christians could meet together to celebrate.

Fr. Eddie Kehan encouraged all present to 'do their own bit' for ecumenism - over the garden wall, if no other way!

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THIS WAS THE WEEK in which the Australians celebrated their 200th Birthday - those who were not Aborigines, in any case; Dublin continued with its Millenium celebrations:

Finance Minister Ray MacSharry introduced his budget: AIDS continued to get international coverage; and the Free Milk Scheme for babies and small children was dis-continued in the Cork area. Such was the week, that was.