



Lent means Spring

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are blessed at each Mass as a sign of repentance. Masses at 7.30 a.m., 9, 10, and 7.30 p.m. Masses will be at these times on Thursday and Friday too.

INSTEAD of a retreat, this year we will have a SPECIAL WEEK OF LENTEN PRAYER (from Sunday 21st to Sunday, 28th February). Homilies will be given at each daily Mass (times 7.30 a.m., 9, 10, and 7.30 p.m.). The theme is "Building up our community." Prayers will be offered for our parish daily. Please support this important venture.

FASTING is a special way of keeping Lent. Those who would like to share mone they save, please collect a TROCAIRE box at the church.

AS YOU READ in the Pastoral Council News, those interested in praying in groups for Lent are invited to the C.P. Centre on Thursday night at 8.

Notice Board

NEXT Sunday is the third Sunday. Bulletins to be delivered to homes.

SCRIPTURE COURSE

THIS begins on Tuesday, March 8. Enrol at C.P. Centre - £2. We are privileged to have a biblical scholar of such high standing on our Parish team - Fr. John Newman, who will give this course.

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

ALL parishioners are invited to participate in our TABLE QUIZ. Teams will be in groups of four. There will be no individual questioning - the group can confer and write their answers. We would like at least one team from each area. Time 8 p.m., Shrove Tuesday, in the Crypt. Admission 50p. 1st, 2nd and an area prize and a perpetual plaque.

FAITH AND LIGHT MASS
SUNDAY, February 14, at 3 p.m.
Celebrant Fr. Padraig Keogh,

About 300 expected: mentally handicapped, parents and helpers from all over the country.

Music: Karisma.

There will be banners, lights and mime.

After Mount Mercy for tea and cakes until 5.30 p.m.



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

No. 111

14th February, 1988

EDUCATION ON ALCOHOL, DRUGS URGED

FAMILY MINISTRY QUESTIONNAIRE YOUR SUGGESTIONS

FURTHER analysis of the questionnaire reveals what our parishioners see as priorities and what may be the solutions to some of the problems.

Support for the elderly came high on the list, especially from the younger age groups. Education on alcohol and drugs was urged by all age groups. Action for peace and justice was seen as an important issue. Other areas suggested were reaching out to the housebound, programmes for the active retired, and support for the widowed. The 36-60 age group mostly, saw a need for helping parents of small children.

All of this is in the context of the parish. Within the family itself prayer in the home was seen as important, especially in the 50-65 age group. Significantly, however, time together was voted very highly by all age groups.

PASTORAL COUNCIL *News*

"WHAT GOES ON AT THESE COUNCIL MEETINGS?"

SOME of our members are being asked this question.

We hasten to allay the fears of those who think there is some mystique about the Council, or that strange happenings take place there! Not so. We sit about in a circle and it's all very relaxed and congenial (so far).

Here is a typical agenda which was the format for last Monday's meeting.

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Report back on Lenten Programme: Groups of five to six, each with a leader, would meet once a week to study the readings of the Sundays of Lent. They would pray, discuss, reflect, discover where the Good news is. Anyone interested come to the C.P. Centre on Thursday, 18th, at 8 p.m.

There is no traditional retreat this Lent. Three optional programmes are offered instead - the above, the Prayer Week at La Retraite, and the Week of Prayer jointly with Wilton Parish.

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COUNCIL NEWS (Continued)

4. Main topic - input from Fr. John: The proposed sub-groups were put before us and each member was asked to be affiliated to one or more.

5. Any Other Business: Some parishioners' "cribs" and suggestions were aired and discussed. Also, the question "What are we supposed to call our new Dean?" Decision - call him by his rightful title - "Dean".

6. Appointment of leader for opening and closing prayer. Date for next meeting.

7. Concluding prayer.

«PARISH FACES»



MARY TOBIN is the representative for the Laburnum area. Married to Vincent, they have two teenage sons. Mary is a nurse by profession.



TIM BOWEN represents Wilton Gardens and is well qualified to do so, having lived in the area for 32 years. Married to Eileen, they have eight children, almost all grown up.

Rest In Peace

JOHN F. CASEY, "Sarto", Bendemeer Park, died at his home last weekend. A stalwart supporter of the Church, he was one of the first collectors in the parish. Commissioned a Minister of the Eucharist last June, he served at the 10.00 on Sundays and Tuesdays. Our deepest sympathy goes to his dear wife Lily, and sons Michael, John and Patrick.

TOM EGAN, "Valebrook", Wilton Gardens, died on Monday last. He had only been taken ill on the previous day. A very popular gentleman, great numbers attended both his removal and funeral. His association with the Red Cross was marked ceremonially with a guard of honour. Your continuing prayers, please, for his grieving wife and family.

HENRY CASHELL, "Avonlee", Model Farm Road, died on Wednesday at the Regional Hospital. He had suffered a long illness. He is survived by his wife Mary, and his family Larry and Honor. His son John was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident in July, 1985. We pray that father and son are now re-united in the peace of Heaven.

JOHN O'DONOGHUE, "Glenbeigh", Bendemeer Park, died peacefully at his home on Wednesday. A native of Gneeveguilla, Co. Kerry, he was a decent, upright man. As a Garda sergeant he

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MEDIA COMMENT

IN HIS ANSWER to a question from David Hanley on 'Hanley's People', Bishop Edward Daly surely encapsulated the whole Christian message when he said, 'The people who suffer most, forgive most.' His answer is worth reflecting on.

ISN'T IT IRONIC that, forty years after the EXODUS brought Jewish refugees to British-occupied Palestine, the ALAWDA should now be bringing exiled Palestinians back to their homeland? It seems likely that their landfall will be no more welcoming than that of the Jewish refugees.

THE NEED FOR proper guidance for young people in the matter of smoking and drinking alcohol received media attention once again. The debate continues on the desirability for new legislation regarding underage drinking.

One would have thought that the stage is long past for debate. Action is surely required.

Our lives are a manifestation of what we think about God.

Anon.

served in Tarelton, Co. Cork, and at Union Quay, with courtesy and integrity. May he rest in peace. Sincere sympathy goes to his wife Eta, and sons Ray and Paddy.

Focus On.....

The Poor Clares

HOW DO THE POOR CLARES EARN A LIVING?

ST. CLARE loved work and called it a special "grace". However, any work undertaken had to be compatible with their contemplative life. They do not seek financial security or work that might extinguish the spirit of prayer.

Poor Clares often take work such as the making of altar breads, vestments, art-work and printing. This is in addition to the usual daily activities such as cooking, sewing, looking after the sick, housekeeping, laundry, the sacristy, gardening etc.

But the principal source of their livelihood is dependance on Divine Providence. St. Clare writes in her Rule: "Let the sisters send for alms with confidence, nor should they be ashamed of so doing, for the Lord while He was in this world did not hesitate to make Himself poor for our sakes."

Generous people support the nuns, and the nuns support them by their lives of prayer and penance.