



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

No.126

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Very Reverend and Dear Father,

I write concerning the annual collection in aid of the Peru Mission, to be held at all Churches in the Dioceses on Sunday, May 29th.

Our presence in the shanty towns of Trujillo has two fold purpose: to preach the good news of God's love, and to help the people to a better standard of living.

Due to the work of the priests and sisters from here, the obvious hunger for God is now being fed. The people are responding to the fullness of the Gospel. We have twenty one centres where people attend Mass in their thousands. Many religious education programmes are in progress, catering for people of all ages.

We have invested heavily in schools since the beginning. We have been able, with the co-operation of the Government, to provide what is now adequate schooling for over 5,000 children who attend those schools. Almost the only medical assistance available to the people of our parishes is in the dispensaries run by the Bon Secours and Mercy Sisters.

Our aim is to replace ourselves eventually by Peruvian priests and sisters, who will minister to their own people. Over fifty Peruvian girls have joined either the Bon Secours or Mercy Orders. Later this year, I hope to pay a visit to the Mission, and I look forward to ordaining the first priest from our parishes.

I thank you sincerely for your generosity to the Peru Mission over the years. Last year, the Annual Collection came to £95,291.14. Every penny goes directly to maintaining the

work of our missionaries. It provides medicines, powdered milk and other foods it is used for various self-help project and, of course, to support our own priests and sisters.

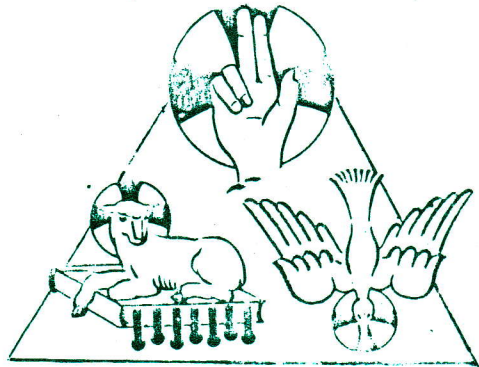
I confidently ask you, once again, to be generous in your contributions to the support of the Peru Mission at next Sunday's collection.

With every good wish,
I remain,
Yours in Christ,

Michael

+ Michael,
Bishop of Cork and Ross.

Sunday's Message for You **TRINITY SUNDAY**



GOD IS MY FATHER.

I am his child. He loves me, even though I am unworthy of his love.

CHRIST THE SON OF GOD IS MY BROTHER.

He died and rose for me. Through him all other people have become my brothers and sisters.

AND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE BOND OF LOVE BETWEEN US ALL.



PERUVIAN ADVENTURE



Photo: Fr. Cotter and Fr. S. O'Driscoll, a classmate from Clonakilty, with a Peruvian shanty town in the background.

People always get a shock when they ask me what struck me most about Peru. It was the smell! It was everywhere, and it was absolutely unique. From the posh suburbs of Lima to the sewerless boreens of Trujillo's shanty towns. An indescribable pong.

And what else struck me, people quickly ask. It had to be the conditions in which the people lived. No sewerage system. No water supply, and if there was, it was contaminated. No light. And our entire Diocesan Mission of four parishes packed into an area not as big as the Southside of Cork City. With a quarter of a million people living there. That's a family of up to twelve or fourteen squeezed into a house the size of one or two Irish rooms.

Peru was an action-packed adventure. It was the Third World in a nutshell. Hopelessly inefficient. Weighed down with red tape. Reeking with incompetence. Being raped by multinationals. An unstable democracy in perpetual fear of a corrupt and disproportionately powerful army. No justice for anyone, except for those who could pay for it. Certainly not a place you'd go for a holiday!

I would say I was scared stiff 24 hours of the day while I was there! Of violent crime. Of disease—typhoid, cholera and other Peruvian specialities. Of earthquakes. Of the army, the police and the terrorists—in equal measure. Of traffic accidents

in a country where 'right of way' is unheard of! And of those awfully big cockroaches that hopped into the bed next to me at night. Looking for one word to describe my three-week-long visit, it's hard to beat "an experience"!

The Mission in Trujillo certainly impressed me. Our nine Cork priests are very happy, and form a great team with the Kerrymen and the Mercy and Bons Sisters. And the lay people really run the Church. In fact, the Church seems centered on lay people, while our Irish Church seems so priest-centred, from a Peruvian perspective.

I found them a loveable people. They were warm and affectionate, and gave me a great welcome. For a non-Spanish-speaking visitor like myself, their way of saying 'hello' was a warm hug. They had great respect for the Mission staff, and begrudged them nothing — quite a contrast to the Irish scene.

Peru hasn't many 'plus factors', but one of them must be the phone system. Telecom Eireann please note its features:— itemised phone bills, unlimited local calls for a small, fixed amount, and direct dialling to Ireland (something not yet possible vice versa!).

A definite plus factor was the scenery. The mighty Andes, soaring up from the desert plain. The blue, if stinking Pacific. The mighty jungle. And Cuzco, at 12,000', former capital of the mighty Incan empire. And Machu Picchu, the 'lost city' of the Incas. And finally the weather. 90° in the shade in February isn't to be sneezed at!

Still, I'm afraid the scales dipped heavily on the negative side, as I look back at my Peruvian adventure. I think I'd prefer to go to First World Europe for good weather! And there was so much wrong in Peru. So much darkness, and so little hope. A sad place. For me Peru, good and bad, smell 'n all, was definitely "an experience"!

BERNARD COTTER C.C.

MEDIA COMMENT

THERE WAS A SEQUEL to my piece on abortion in last week's MEDIA COMMENT. In discussing the horrifying statistics with a doctor, he made a point that can easily be over-looked in such issues. He said that Western Society has come to over-look the fact that certain things are fundamentally and morally wrong. I believe it is worth thinking deeply on this. There ARE things which simply are morally WRONG.

THIS IS THE SEASON when this land of ours comes into its own. How breath-taking to drive through West Cork and Kerry! To envy the tidiness and colour of Dunmanway! To wander through the winding streets of Kinsale,

And yet, we read of pollution of all kinds. Worse still, hanging over us all is the threat of a serious accident at Sellafield. This week has seen a further accident and we learn of cover-ups in the past. We really must not remain silent. It is our future that is at stake - God's world and our own and our children's safety.

DO YOU ENJOY a flutter on the National Lottery? It would seem that a lot of people do. But it is becoming increasingly clear that many people are concerned about the manner in which the National Lottery funds are being dis-embursed. Phrases like "political slush-fund" and "re-election fund" are being used.

It would be a pity if the method of distributing this money, which could benefit so many deserving causes, were to become tainted with any form of political skulduggery.



"The Bridge at Lo Wu" by Desmond Forristal. Published by Veritas. Price £4.95.

"The Bridge at Lo Wu" is a realistic story of the dedicated life of Cork-born Sr. Eamonn O'Sullivan

Molly was born in St. Luke's in 1907, the first child of devoted, hard working parents. One of her sisters wrote:- "It was easy in this family, where there was so much love to be ever conscious of the Fatherhood of God." In St. Aloysius' School she developed her talent for music and singing, a gift which supported her to the end of her life.

The simple quiet life of a generation so different from ours and yet so close in time, is reflected in the slow pace of the early chapters, but, let us read on to the excitement and absorbing variety of Sr. Eamonn's life in China.

The petty restrictions of the Pre-Vatican II Novitiate had tested her stamina and prepared her for the deprivations and hardship she was to endure. The author has given an accurate and revealing account of the Red Regime, when missionaries lived in constant fear of searchings, arrest and execution.

Sr. Eamonn's spirit of prayer and courage is inspiring. When she got the option to leave China, her reply to her superior was:- "If everyone leaves, God will stay, and as long as he is in the North of China, I want to stay too." She did stay, until she was brutally forced out and in a dying state was thrown on a luggage-trolley and dragged across the Bridge at Lo Wu.

The book is easily read and has a ring of truth which makes it refreshing.

Sr. Vincent McCormack.



MAY PROCESSION

Last Sunday our Parish celebrated the Marian Year with a procession in honour of Our Lady. The participants, who included the not so young and the very young with their parents, showed their devotion by joining in the hymns and prayers and attending Benediction at the church. It was heart warming to see the number of flags along the route and a special credit to Jim Doyle who decorated his shop so well.

The Parish thanks all those who took part, especially the First Communicants, the Brigini, the Brownies, the Banner bearers, the four stalwart parishioners who so steadily carried the statue on their shoulders and the skilful driver of the car. Great credit is due to the Soloist and St. Joseph's Pipe Band, Togher.



Eucharistic Procession.

AGAIN THIS YEAR families are invited to take part and to accompany the parish group. Whatever the weather the Ballineaspaig Group will gather in our Churchyard at 2.45 p.m. Sunday 29th. May. The route is via College Road, Gilabbey St., French's Quay, South Gate Bridge, Tuckey Street. Also it is nice to see Vatican Flags and Bunting to celebrate the special occasion. The sermon will be preached by Fr. Liam O'Driscoll, Diocesan Communications Director.

Holy Day

THURSDAY NEXT is the Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi, a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be at 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and at 7.30 p.m. As usual, there will be a Vigil Mass on Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m.

First Friday

FRIDAY IS the first Friday of June. Special Confessions on Thursday night after Mass. Call to the sick will be made on the usual days.

Pastoral Council

THE PARISH Pastoral Council will meet on Monday, 30th May at 8.10 p.m. sharp in the C.P. Centre.

St. Josephs' Young Priests' Society.

THE MONTHLY meeting of the Society will be held next Thursday, June 2nd. at 8.00 p.m. in the C.P. Centre.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

THE USUAL monthly collection in aid of the Society will take place at the gates of this church, Sunday next 5th. June.

Pioneer Total Abstinence Mass

THE P.T.A.A. Mass is on Tuesday June, 14th. at 7.30 p.m. Badges and certificates will be presented to intending members then. Also silver and golden jubilarians will receive presentations. those eligible please ring 544682 or 542907 immediately.

Sacred Heart Novena

A NOVENA will take place at the Sacred Heart Church from Thursday 2nd June to Friday 10th June at 10.00 a.m. and 8.00. There will be an all Night Vigil on Friday 10th June.

Cork Deaf Enterprises

AT THE DONNYBROOK Commercial Centre the Enterprises have a new telephone number 891480. They are keen to get involved in furniture and upholstery repairs. They collect and deliver.

CALLING ALL MODEL FARM ROAD/BISHOPSTOWN RESIDENTS. A public meeting will be held at the Bishopstown G.A.A. Club on Monday, 30th May at 8.30 p.m. to discuss the outline planning application, submitted by Cork County Board G.A.A. to erect 61 houses on playing fields West of Highfield Lawn.

Competition Reminder

THIS SUNDAY, 29th is the closing date for competition entries. The solutions and names will appear in next week's Bulletin.