



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

* No. 140 *

13th November, 1988

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SIGNS OF LIFE

ORDINATION

"WHAT ARE Priests for?". Like every question the answer depends on who you ask!

Ask a Jewish contemporary of Christ, and he'll say "Priests are set apart to offer sacrifice".

Ask an early Christian and he'd say: "Our leaders are Christians like ourselves - we don't even call them priests!"

Ask a 6th century Christian and he'd say: "They lead us, we look up to them. They have a high status".

Ask a post-reformation Catholic (and pre Vatican 2) and he'd say: "Priests offer the sacrifice of the Mass and administer the Sacraments."

Ask a Priest nowadays and, depending on his outlook, he might say: "Priests provide sacraments" (the old idea)

or

"Priests build up the Christian community" (Vatican 2 idea)

or

"Priests help people realise God's gifts in their lives" (the vision of today).

Ask a lay person and you'll get more expectations than Jesus himself could fulfil:-

*Parish accountant and administrator,
typist and banker, news duplicator.
Reference composer & pencil-end biter.
Passport endorser, certificate writer.
Digger of garden, inspector of drains,
Checking the roof each time that it rains.
Redesigner of churches, rearranger of pews,
Closer of windows, repairer of loos.
Visitor, caller-in, knocker on doors,
Target of tale-spinners, cadgers and bores...
Something to everyone as I'm passing by,
Occasionally wondering 'Just who am I?'*

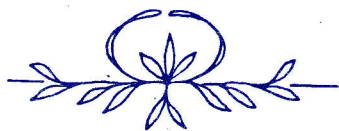
So,

What are Priests for?

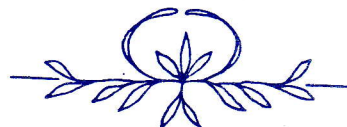
What do you think?

Fr. Bernard.

NEXT WEEK:- Being a Priest



PARISH NEWS

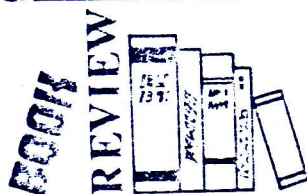


WE'RE ALWAYS mad to learn! A delegation of five from the Pastoral Council took off to Dublin last weekend, to see if they could teach us anything!

Clare Bradley, Fr. Bernard, Pamela Gilligan, Kathleen O'Sullivan and Sr. Frances spent Saturday 5th in Edenmore, near Raheny, where a different form of Pastoral Council is being developed.

Our delegates got a great welcome and learned a lot - a full report will be given to Monday night's Pastoral Council meeting.

A PARISHIONER has retired! A rather special parishioner. Her name - Sister Thecla, her job - matron at the Regional Hospital. We join in wishing her happiness.



"THE BROKEN BODY", sub-titled Journey to Wholeness, is written by Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche and Faith and Light communities. It is published by Darton, Longman & Todd, and sells at Stg. £3.95.

It is written as a sort of prose-poem, sensitively treated by a gentle man. Yet, his subject matter is brokenness, the brokenness of the handicapped and of a "fragile community... lonely, bewildered... feeling empty but finding nothing to fill the emptiness". "So, perhaps the only thing to do," Vanier says, "is to hide in front of our television sets; and forget the pain of this broken world."

But, Vanier says, "God has the secret of loving us to freedom. Jesus is truth and compassion, wanting to meet and love people, to touch them".

This is Jesus, the Healer, who was also broken. But God raised him to wholeness and he left behind his suffering, his pain, his brokenness.

Jesus calls us, Vanier says, to follow him, through the power of the Spirit. And in ministering to the hurting and lonely and the poor, we will find healing ourselves.

Pat Lemasney

BY THE WAY ... the name L'ARCHE? Literally, ARK! A home in time of need for those with a mental handicap where peace can be found - and healing can take place.

NEXT WEEK: The "L'Arche" Home in Bishopstown.



Bible Study

THE BOOK OF PSALMS is the Hymn Book and Prayer Book of the Bible used by the people of Israel in their worship and included in their Scriptures. Arranged in 5 collections, it represents the work of several centuries and stages of Jewish history.

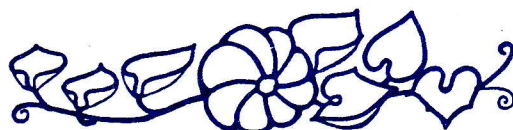
Along with the Song of Songs, it is the only book of the Bible composed entirely of poetry. Its themes range from praise and thanksgiving to pleas for help and forgiveness. The psalms were written to be sung, often to the music of the harp and other instruments. Several date from the distant era of King David who once minded sheep on the hills near Bethlehem.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing,
In meadows of green grass he lets me lie,
To the waters of repose he leads me;
There he revives my soul."

Psalms 23:1-3

Rest In Peace

SINCERE SYMPATHY to Anne, our Parish Secretary, whose mother, Mrs. Nancy Crowley, died during the week. May she rest in peace.



LETTERS

11 Freemount Drive,
Melbourne

Dear Rev. Fr.,

May I draw your attention to 'Bible Study' Bulletin 138, 30th October. Referring to the story of the "Flood" the last line in this article reads "The story itself is of no historical value". I enclose some documents describing how excavations in Mesopotamia uncovered a ten foot layer of clay indicating a flood. This evidence is supported by the existence of Polystrate Fossils. This question has serious implications and is worthy of further discussion.

Yours sincerely,
Steve McGarry

*EDITOR'S NOTE:- The documents enclosed do indeed include the evidence described. They have been passed on to the compiler of 'Bible Study Corner'. Other opinions on the underlying question are welcome, i.e., was the Bible written as history?
Ed.*

A FUNNY STORY! Things didn't go so smoothly with our Parish Directory. Our Printer dispatched the first 600 copies last weekend. He told the van driver- "drop them into the first house in the Macroom side of the Bishopstown Church.

But they never arrived at 1 Woodlawn, the intended destination. Instead a family on Curraheen Road ended up with a large sealed box, and not a clue as to what was inside!

By the time the printer arrived to reclaim them they had all but phoned the Gardai to come and blow up the box!!! When we hoped the Directory would "go down a bomb", this wasn't quite what we meant!

*CONTINUING our occasional column -
a sideways glance at life and living:*

Alternative **SLANTS**

"TAXES MUST BE CUT", so everyone says. "There's no incentive to work, or to invest". ETC. ETC. It goes on and on.

And who will suffer when taxes are cut ? No one ? Who's coddling who ?

Look at the States. Taxes are low, but if you're poor - tough! No one cares, not even the many wealthy Catholics.

Is there any evidence that Irish Catholics have more developed social consciences ?

We're generous, sure. Good at hand-outs. But changing structures - that's different. Re-distributing wealth - that's dangerous talk. Can we Catholics avoid facing the challenge of justice long more ?

THEY'RE ALL TALKING about the smog in Dublin. RTE seem very worried. But, as usual, "down the country", as they condescendingly call us, we're forgotten.

What about all the asthma, bronchitis etc. that everyone in Cork seems to have ? Does anyone "up there" care ?

LITTLE ENOUGH public reaction to David Norris' victory. A minority of Irish people are delighted. And yet, homosexual rights campaigners claim 10% of the entire population are gay. It can't be true ?

SO BUSH made it in the States. He was a marketable commodity after all!

What a campaign! 'Images not issues' ruled. Let's hope Bush has more to offer than 'Reaganism' - I'm sure Central Americans hope the same!

Written this week by "Mark". Your reaction is welcome! Write to the Editor, C.P. Centre.



NOTICE BOARD

BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

PARISH DIRECTORY

MANY OF you will have got one. Sales are proceeding. We are trying to keep up with the demand! Your opinion? Write it all in to the Editor.

TO THE HOMES

NEXT SUNDAY being the Third Sunday of November, Bulletins will go to every house of the Parish, as usual. The Christmas Dues letters and envelopes will be sent out at the same time.

ARE YOU AVAILABLE?

GREAT WORK is done by the Committee for Travelling Children at St. Cathelines N.S. Each day they wash and dress the children, look after their clothes, serve their meals and help them in class.

Betty Layton (544046) who leads the group, tells me that a meeting is planned for Tues. 15 Nov. at 8.00 p.m. in the school. She stresses that more helpers are always welcome. Can you help?

PARENTING

A FEW places remain for the Teenage parenting course. Come along to the C.P. Centre this Wed. morning at 10.30 a.m. or to Mount Mercy at 8pm tomorrow (Monday).

ARDFALLEN FAIR

CORK METHODIST Church. Saturday, November 19, 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., in Ardfallen House, Douglas Road, next to Ardfallen Motors.

Organized games for children.
Stalls: books, cakes, country produce, gifts, household goods, plants, sweets, electrical goods, arts and crafts.

Coffee, tea, snacks.

Admission: adults 20p, children 10p.

CHRIST HAS THE ANSWER

THIS WAS the message delivered with great conviction at the first adult education talk on Tuesday night.

Fr. John Keogh spoke of an overall vision for real Christian living where the Gospel message of Jesus is everything. He reminded us forcibly that there is evil in the world. Our young people are being brainwashed into a way of thinking based on escapism - an unreal world.

Prayer is vital! A very thought-provoking evening.

The next talk in the ADULT EDUCATION series will be on "The Role of the Laity in the Parish". It will be given by Jennie McCarthy at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 15th November in the Crypt.

PARISH COUNCIL

will meet on Monday, 14th November at 8.10 p.m. at the CP Centre.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES

at the S.M.A. Hall, Wilton, for four weeks, beginning Thursday morning, November 17, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Contact Mary at 541081 for booking.

THE WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP

invite you to join them in prayer for our city and its people on Sunday, 27th November, at 2.30 p.m. in Connolly Hall.

SALE OF WORK

AT ARDFOYLE Convent, Ballintemple
(No.2 Bus)
on Sunday 13th November
from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

WINNER OF SPECIAL cake at St. Joseph's Young Priests' Society Cake Sale was:
Mrs Peg Hegarty,
9 Summerstown Ave.,
Wilton. (Pink ticket No. 118)