



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

* No. 205 *

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Confirmation

TO THOSE BEING CONFIRMED

THIS YEAR

WELL, YOUR BIG day has come at last! For months now you have been preparing to receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. Did it seem like only months to you, or were you aware that your whole primary school religious education was designed to lead you to this great day?

O.K., so now that it has arrived, and the style has been picked out, all the money amassed and the countless photos taken, are you wondering, in the words of Bob Geldoff, "Is that it?"

Of course it isn't! But where is all the wisdom, piety, strength etc? Surely you didn't expect to feel physically different! No, that's not it! This is where your life as a responsible Catholic begins. You must look for ways to live as Jesus wants you to. (Ever hear that before?) Helping old ladies across the road isn't very original, is it? There are pedestrian crossings for that sort of thing! Maybe it would be better to become involved in fund-raising to help

poor old people get a decent place to live in. Or to avoid hassling old people by being inconsiderate in your choice of playing area.

Confirmation is about recognising the talents God gave you, and using them to make the world a better place to live in. Perhaps you have the talent for bringing a smile to the faces of others, use it well. Are you good with children? Offer to help a tired mother, when you have spare time. Do you have the ability to lead others? Use it wisely, that's what wisdom is about.

Start every day with the intention of helping someone else, even in a small way. Say a prayer each day for those less fortunate than you. Bring a smile to someone's face. At the end of each day, ask yourself, "Is the world a better place, because I'm in it?" May God bless you all.





BAPTISM

First Ever

A CHRISTENING in the Convent? Never! There was actually, for the first time ever, Fr. Liam O'Driscoll baptised a child (from Mayfield) at the Poor Clares Convent Chapel during the Easter Vigil. The nuns were delighted, as many had never witnessed a baptism in the new rite (i.e., in English). A great occasion surely.

Sincere Congratulations

THE TWO ENDS of the Parish were represented at the Easter Vigil in the Parish Church - Orchard Road from the east side and Parkway Drive on the west. The children who shared in the new life of Easter were KIERAN PATRICK GUBBINS, son of James and Joan of Parkway Drive, and JOHN BRENDAN CROWLEY, son of Brendan and Adrienne (nee Neenan, Orchard Road).



CONGRATULATIONS to THOMAS O'HEA, Farranlea Park, who married Ann Heavey-Monroe of Boston, on St. Patrick's Day in the Church of St. John Chrysostom, West Roxbury, Massachusetts. Family travelled to be with the happy couple on the joyous occasion.



Midnight Deadline

Have you one clue to go? Hand in your completed crossword before midnight tonight (Sunday 22nd). See next week's Bulletin for results!

PASTORAL COUNCIL *News*

AT THE COUNCIL meeting held on Monday night a suggestion to erect a Church Notice Board at the two entrances leading to the Church was considered. Such a noticeboard would state the name of the Church and times of service and would be visible and readable by passing motorists. A more thorough investigation into this will be done before the next meeting.

The renovation of the Crypt was another item on the agenda. Better kitchen facilities were envisaged for one of the smaller rooms. This, it was thought, would utilise the space to greater advantage and would allow meetings in the bigger room to progress undisturbed. This room would still be usable for small meetings.

The special prayer leaflets for the housebound have been distributed and were received very enthusiastically. Fr. Stan Mellett, CSSp, with two other priests, will conduct the forthcoming Novena. A prayer leaflet and a brochure, outlining precise details of the Novena, will be issued to the houses early in May. It will also be advertised by a colourful display of posters and a mention on Corkabout or Radio South.

Do you know of any other place where a public Novena to the Holy Spirit has taken place? We think it's a first for Cork and maybe the whole country!



The breeze of divine grace is blowing upon us all. But one needs to set the sail to feel this breeze of grace.

Sister Brendan WRITES...



THE GREAT SUNDAY

THIS IS THE DAY which was made by the Lord; let us rejoice and be glad, ALLELUIA.

The next six Sundays are set aside as special feastedays of Easter. We come to thank God our Father that He has risen and

is alive and with us. Christ's great love shines forth.

We proclaim our "Alleluia" many times during this Easter season. It is the praise of our daily life, also that of our future. Here on earth it is a praise mingled with fear, but in heaven it will be our joy. Here it is our song of hope, there it will be our praise for ever. Here it is our praise on the journey, there it will be our praise on arriving.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Thank You

WE WERE DELIGHTED to receive the sketch on cloth of "Christ Crowned with Thorns" which we hung on the Ambo during Holy Week. (Did you notice?!) The gift was completely anonymous.

MEDIA COMMENT

TALKING ABOUT his father's lack of emotion on radio recently, author Shane Connaughton, when asked if his father ever hugged him, replied, "It was like being hugged by a statue!"

So many of us fail to show emotion, don't we? A kiss, a hug, a warm embrace in times of joy or sadness. We're a little afraid of signs of tenderness or affection. Inhibition gets in the way, or bitterness.

But it's Easter! It's Spring! Let's not be like that statue. Statues have no hearts beating inside them. But we have!!

CHRIST'S MESSAGE to his disciples after His Resurrection was, "Do

not be afraid". It could be applied to so many of us in this land who remain silent while evil men kill and maim and rob in our name and in the name of patriotism.

It could be applied to those of us who remain silent while injustice is done in South America, in the Baltic States, in South America.

It requires courage to stand up and be counted in the cause of peace and justice. Perhaps even more, it requires a shedding of apathy.

Life is good for us and anyway, what difference can we make to events?

What was that that Christ said, "As long as you did it to these...." An uncomfortable feeling isn't it?



Confirmation



TUESDAY MORNING sees the visit of Bishop John Buckley to celebrate with us the Sacrament of Confirmation. Over eighty children from St. Catherines are involved this year. The ceremony begins at 10.30 a.m., so naturally there will be no 10.00 Mass. All are welcome to join in the event.

You are also invited to have a look at the display at the back of the Church, prepared by the school. As well as the names of those to be confirmed, you will see a montage of the gifts of the Spirit.

A suggestion. Why not 'adopt' one of the young boys and girls, and remember them in your prayers each day. Wouldn't that be a really practical way to support and encourage the adults of the future!

Great Participation

"OVER TWO hundred people were involved in preparing the Holy Week ceremonies this year". So said Fr. John at Mass on Easter Sunday. And he rightly pointed out how effective all this participation was. It produced beautiful liturgies, well attended and appreciated. For which we sincerely thank our God.

Special Guest



FIONA COUGHLAN, Kenley Drive, had a place of honour at this year's Easter Vigil. It was she who helped Sr. Ursula and altar boy Cillian O'Leary light the Easter fire. It was a special day for Fiona, because she was the first child ever to be baptised at the Easter Vigil in our Church, ten years ago.

NOTICE BOARD

Episcopal Commission

The annual collection for the Episcopal Commission will take place next Sunday 29th in the Church porches.

Liturgy Group

Reminder of meeting on Monday 23rd in the C.P. Centre.

I.S.A.N.D.S.

Monthly meeting will be held in the Grand Parade Hotel on the 23rd April at 8.00 p.m. Any further information required, please phone 546735 or 545600.

Helping the Blind

A meeting of the Bishopstown Branch of the Irish Guide Dogs Association will be held in Bishopstown Community School on Wednesday 25th April at 8 p.m. New members welcome. For further information please contact Mary Twomey or Pat Gunn at 870929.



MARIA GORETTI PETA, who is staying at 4 Lima Lawn, looks for our help. A student of Social Science at U.C.C., she is trying to gather enough money to go back to Zimbabwe for her placement work (in a leper colony there).

With her friends, she has organised a Disco in Highfield on Friday 27th April from 9.30 to 1.30. Admission is £3 and she would also welcome any additional help.