



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

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Fr. Bernard
writes.....



I HAVE SPENT the week "recruiting" new Ministers of the Eucharist. Twenty-four are retiring, so twenty-four new people must take their place. Not an easy task to find them!

"I couldn't possibly, Father...."

"Why don't you ask so-and-so...."

"I'm not worthy to be a Minister.."

A very important point. No one is ever worthy. Not even me!

(Ask the man who hears my confession!) But God, in his foolishness, chooses us. And, by his grace, we are suitable. We're O.K.!

And then there is fear. What will they say.... "Who does she think she is to be giving out Holy Communion?" Maybe you've heard that said? Or even said it?

One line from scripture always challenges me:

"Who are you to give a verdict on your neighbour?"

New Ministers urgently needed annually! But, more importantly, people needed to encourage Ministers....

"I'm delighted for you...."

"You're the right person for the job....", ETC., ETC.

The man who wrote the Letter to the Hebrews put it best:-

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts, keep encouraging one another." (Heb. 3:13)

Congratulations!

FIFTY YEARS is a long time. Imagine giving fifty years of your life to God! The sacrifice - and the joy.

Sister Assumpta of Saint Catherine's Convent has done just that. This very day, 29th April, she celebrates fifty years as a Mercy Sister. Some achievement!

Born in Allihies, educated at Fermoy, she is best known in Bishopstown for the years she spent in St. Catherine's National School. People in the Philippines remember her too - she spent three terms there.



And all done lightly. Cheerfully. With enthusiasm and grace. We rejoice with her on her Golden Jubilee and wish her - "Ad multos annos" - many more years of joyful services to the Lord.



Liturgical Roles

Reports on the role of the many Church ministries and groups have started to appear in the parish bulletin. No matter where your talents lie you will find a group to which you can make a significant contribution. This is YOUR church, pick up the phone, volunteer and get involved. You'll be glad you did.

KARISMA FOLK GROUP

KARISMA FOLK GROUP was started back in 1978 with the purpose of adding colour and force to the celebration of the Mass. That is still the aim today. Although the group members have changed many times over the years, and the group itself has had its ups and downs, the hymns which we sing are just as beautiful and as relevant to today's world as the first day we sang them.

We sing at the 12.15 Mass every Sunday morning from September to June, when we take our summer break. During the summer months we are able to keep in contact, as we get requests to sing at many wedding ceremonies. This helps to build up the funds, which are used for special occasions within the group.

We meet every Thursday night from 8.15 to 10.15 for rehearsal and every Sunday morning at 11.15 in the Crypt. For us the singing at Mass is of great enjoyment; it can help you to become much more involved in the celebration if you let it.

Unfortunately, due to emigration, the numbers in the group have dwindled and we are in urgent need of fresh blood. You don't have to be a great singer or a fantastic musician, but you must be able to sing in tune and/or know the basics of your instrument.

We are also looking for someone to operate the sound system for us. This person must have a knowledge of sound and a good ear.

If you are interested, please phone Flor O'Mahony at 342394, or come up and introduce yourself any Sunday after Mass.

A Reflection

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER (MAY 1)

THE CHURCH has always proudly emphasised that Jesus was a carpenter. He was obviously trained by Joseph in both the satisfaction and the drudgery of the trade. Pius XII instituted this feast in 1955. Man is like God, not only in thinking and loving, but also in working and creating - whether he makes a table or cathedral.

Q.A.

QUESTION: If a nun is a Bride of Christ and wears a silver ring and takes vows, can she then leave the order and marry?

Priests also can marry but lay people cannot re-marry?

ANSWER: Look at your Bible! Where does it say there that nuns can't marry? Or that priests can't marry?

And does the Bible say anything about lay people re-marrying? It says plenty! Whatever about anything else, we must take the Lord's own words seriously.

MEDIA COMMENT

THE WORLD rejoiced at the freeing of American hostage Robert Polhill last weekend. There is renewed hope that Brian Keenan, Terry Waite and the others will soon be free.

Human life is sacred. It is monstrous that the right to live should be treated so callously in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. It is equally inhuman that anyone's right to live in freedom in the Lebanon (or anywhere else) should be interfered with. National and International figures cry out at the outrage. Rightly so.

Do you have any difficulty equating this stance with the very different 'official' attitude to abortion? I do.

The right to freedom and to life seems very noble as long as you have left the womb. But if you happen to still live in your mother's womb, somehow this right to life is not really all that important. It matters little whether you're 24 or 28 weeks there.

I sometimes wonder whether God will one day inflict another Sodom and Gomorrah on us arrogant humans.

IT TAKES a special sort of person to take on a life-time commitment to a 'hopeless' cause. Mother Teresa is one. Willie Bermingham founder of ALONE, was another. His efforts for the poor, the destitute in Dublin were legendary. He is surely united with that other Man who took the poor and the lonely and the destitute of His time to His heart.

EASTER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

S	P	I	R	I	T	A	L	S	Y
L	A	R	C	B	I	S	H	O	P
L	E	F	F	O	O	T	N	I	I
A	H	O	E	S	N	E	E	Z	E
A	S	L	E	E	P	A	I	N	E
E	R	A	S	H	A	R	R	I	V
C	S	S	C	N	A				
O	S	P	A	E	S	S	K	Y	G
M	E	E							A
M	I	N	O	R	R	I	V	E	R
U	A	T	I	M	I	I			E
W	I	N	E	T	C	R			L
I	C	U			R	I	T	I	E
O	P	E	R	A	E	U	S	O	
N	S	L			A	R	R	E	S

We received 67 entries of which a record 57 were correct. From these we drew six names who will

receive prizes:

- Sheila Hyland, Orchard Road
- McCarthy Family, Laburnum Park
- Una Of Scanail, Bothar Wilton
- Sandra Lane, Elmvalle Avenue
- Colette Kenny, Kenley
- Maeve Cotter, Dunmanway (guess whose mother she is!)

Our thanks go to the compilers.

BAPTISED

WE WELCOME two new Christians into our parish:

JOHN DONAL LEAHY, "Leaca Bán", St. Clares Avenue, son of Maurice and Therese.

LAURA JOSEPHINE O'FLAHERTY, "Koran", Highfield Lawn, daughter of Neil and Martina.



NOTICE BOARD

Flower Festival

Cork Flower Clubs present a Flower Festival in aid of the Ardfallen Sheltered Housing Project in the Ardfallen Centre, Douglas Road on Saturday 5 May 10.30 - 5.00, and on Sunday 6th from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. Admission fl.

Bishopstown Community Association

The monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st May at 8 p.m. in Wilton Park House.

Bishopstown Meals-on-Wheels badly need a fridge-freezer - can anyone help? Please contact Leonard Comerford at 543757.

First Friday

Next Friday, 4th May, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days. Confessions on Thursday night at 8.

St. Joseph's Young Priests' Soc.

Monthly meeting will take place on Thursday next 3rd in the C.P. Centre at 8.00 p.m.

Interesting Note

One of our parishioners with a soft spot for the 'Gaeilge' included a lovely, and very suitable, message with his Easter Dues:-

"Ni bheathaíonn na briathra na braithre".

In the vernacular (approx!) "Kind words won't put food on the table."

Thanks to the many who have returned their Easter Dues.

St. Vincent de Paul

Usual monthly collection will take place next Sunday at all Masses.

Lucky Winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. B. Roche, Roger Casement Park, who recently won 6th prize in the COPE Lottery.

Commiserations

SORRY TO see "the Field" losing to Young Munsters in the recent All-Ireland League play-off. Commiserations, Highfield!

Happy Day

FOR MERCY SISTERS the world over, Monday 9th April was a happy day. Their well-known foundress, Catherine McAuley, was declared 'Venerable', the very first Irish woman to win that title. We share the joy of all those who celebrate the occasion.

A Reminder

ON MANTLEPIECES all over the land are thousands of Trócaire Boxes - just rearing to be handed back!! If you still have yours since Lent please bring it to the Sacristy before or after any Mass during the week.

Do You Remember?

Wilton United AFC, in conjunction with their 21st year in football, are publishing a special souvenir booklet. They would like to hear from past members who would have any information or articles on the Club's early years. Any records, results, happenings, anecdotes, photos of games played (won or lost), journeys made, etc., would be gratefully received by - E. Benson, Hon Secretary, Wilton United, 35 Greenmount Avenue, phone 963711.