



Sunday, June 16, 1991

No. 256



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DEANRY'S CROSS, COBK

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.

## A TRIBUTE TO FR. BERNARD



### OUR PASTOR WRITES

If Bernard's talents were seen to advantage in his writing, they were equally evident in the spoken word. The most frequent tribute I have heard since news of his transfer began to trickle out is: "We will miss his sermons - they were great". And so they were - no surplus words, no irrelevant side-issues - always clear, practical, and challenging.

His exceptional gifts as a preacher, writer, and organizer were readily seen. Not so obvious were his sources for these gifts - his devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist - his total dedication to his priestly calling. (He will murder me when he reads this!).

He will be long remembered in this Parish for the example of his Faith, his work, and his prayer. We trust he will be as happy in his new appointment as he has been among us. We pray

that his work for the Lord will be fruitful and fulfilling - that the Holy Spirit will inspire and support his every effort, and that the Mother of God will keep him in her special care.

Seven years have passed - well almost - since Fr. Bernard Cotter started his ministry as a priest. His first appointment was to the Parish of Ballineaspaig. We knew little about him, and he knew less of us. One point did emerge early on among us - older priests - that the "Bernard" of his name came from his mother's side, and is a name with a long and respected history in this Diocese of Cork.

If our Bernard came among us as a stranger, he is certainly no stranger leaving. His talents with the pen surfaced quickly when he took responsibility for the Parish Bulletin. His organizing ability emerged a little later and found expression in the wonderful teams of lay co-workers he gathered in the Parish to help with courses for Eucharistic Ministers, co-ordinating elections to our Pastoral Council, parents meetings for First Communion children, and, of course, the new and enlarged Parish Bulletin. (Remember it was judged second best in all Ireland last year).

*Denis O'Donnor P.P.*

It was a pleasure to work with Fr. Bernard. I found him a great person to tease things out with. When I was new to the parish he had a knack of knowing where I might work most effectively. We will continue to meet him for parish renewal, please God, so I will say, only, au revoir and God bless the work.

Sr. Ursula

I'm glad Bernard is leaving. I had begun to feel guilty about this parish "doing the dog on it" by holding on to him so long. We can't hide our light under a bushel and we need to share the gift of Bernard's ministry with others. Great things have happened in the parish over the last seven years in terms of lay participation and, as well as requiring a receptive laity, a vital ingredient is skilled clergy. Bernard's particular gift in this respect was to clear away the mystique surrounding the priesthood. By sharing his doubts and shortcomings, by being unafraid to state the controversial issue, by being skilled at delegation - sometimes when everyone thought the job was Bernard's - he made us aware that ministry rested on our shoulders no less than on his.

He leaves our parish a richer place. I hope he'll come back to visit us. Meanwhile, it behoves us to develop the gift he has given us, and to assure him of our prayers for the further development of his gifts.

FROM "MARK"

A "rara avis" - a helpful critic, with a great sense of humour.

Charlie Leahy

Fr. Bernard's remarkable enthusiasm was evident in his support and encouragement for the varied ministries of this parish. He brought to them a rare quality - the ability for harmonious yet challenging co-operation. The two areas of his ministry that have impressed me most are (1) his fidelity to and belief in visiting the homes and (2) his contribution to the liturgical life of the parish, the highpoint of which was the Holy Week ceremonies and the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection.

Sister Brendan



Now 'Goodbyes' will be ringing in his ears on all sides - but not from the Poor Clares. We go with him in spirit and prayer as he faces new challenges, and call on him now to report progress in his new jobs. Knowing Fr. Bernard, we are sure he will find a way!

For his kindness to us always and in many ways, we are indeed most grateful and from our hearts say, God bless and God speed!

*The Poor Clares*  
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DYNAMIC he is not! Not at a glance, anyway. But that laid-back exterior belies a dynamism that has surprised more than a few.

Fr. Bernard has many gifts. One that he has used well is his gift for talent-spotting. He recognises God's gifts in others - sometimes only the hint of a gift - and he nurtures, encourages, challenges until it reaches potential. Christ did the same.

He draws out the best in people. He makes them responsible for their actions. How many have had the question turned back on themselves: well, what do YOU think?

There is a deep spirituality about the man that is not worn on the sleeve. Its unorthodoxy doesn't always find a response in others.

I will miss him. I know many others who will miss him too. But then we would do him an injustice if we didn't let go. He, too; must seek his full potential.

This column was Fr. Bernard's brain-child. If it hasn't measured up, it is my fault, not his.

My thanks go with him. So too do my best wishes for his future in God's vineyard.

FROM "LUKE"



Fr. Bernard's homilies were preceded by a hushed silence - because you never knew what he was going to say next!

A parishioner.

## FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

"His caring approach has been of consolation."

"Enthusiastic organiser and motivator."

"Polished performance."

"Good friend, loyal pastor, sympathetic listener."

"Nomadic tendencies."

"A man with a hearty laugh."

"Excellent administrator."

"True Doherty."

"Go far in the Dioceses."

"Spiritual."

"Totally committed."

"Not afraid to speak out on issues."

"Without frontiers."

"Reluctant dieter."

"A typical '3'."

## From the Editor

Fr. Bernard inherited the Bulletin from Fr. Tadhy - a one-man job. Gradually and with subtle cunning he managed to enlist the help of "volunteers". So, the present editorial team of ten evolved.

Now Fr. Bernard bows out leaving us feeling a bit like the apostles waiting for the Holy Spirit. The Bulletin in its present form is certainly his creation. We'll do our best to keep up the standard. We may still raise a few eyebrows occasionally - not to disappoint him!

Thank you Bernard.

*Blair Harris*

Whew... what a perfectionist!

Ann.



## Memorable Quotes from Fr. Bernard

"The way I pray now is to relax, be at peace, read a bit, talk to God and listen to God. Prayer is hard, but it is the source of peace for me."

"Christmas often has more to do with fairy tales than the dirt of a cowstall or the pain of childbirth. Too often our escapism covers up the core of our faith - the Incarnation - God really did become human in Jesus."

"What makes me sad? Here is one thing that disappoints - how long it takes to build community in a city parish."

"One of my favourite sentences in the whole Bible comes up at 'Morning Prayer' each day. It's not a bad motto to have:

Each day, as long as this 'today' lasts, keep encouraging one another."

### NOTICE BOARD

#### Pilgrimage to Knock

Organised by St. Joseph's Young Priests Society, will take place on Saturday, 22nd June.

Enquiries to 545870 / 546387, or leave name in to C.P. Centre.

#### Peter's Pence

The collection in aid of the Vatican will be taken up at Church doors on Sunday, 23rd June.

#### Colebrook Montessori School

Open Day being held on Sunday, 16th June from 2 - 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Vacancies for children from 2½ to 5 years. Phone 343631.

#### Farranlea Residents Association

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 18th June at St. Catherine's at 8.00 p.m.

Local clean-up on Saturday, 22nd.



#### Bishopstown G.A.A.

The Community Festival opens on Sunday, 16th with a parade from Westgate/Curraheen Road at 7.30 to the Pavilion. All welcome.

Events during the week:

- Sunday, 16th - Johnny McEvoy.
- Wednesday 19th - Inter Hospitals Nurses Relay Race, Paddy O'Donoghue Senior Football Tournament, followed by music by Galleon.
- Thursday 20th - U21 Football. Monster 45 Card Drive.
- Friday 21st - Race Night.
- Saturday 22nd - Bishopstown Youth Sports at 2 p.m. Karaoke Night at 9 p.m.
- Sunday 23rd - Senior Football. 10 p.m. Johnny Carroll.