



Sunday, September 1, 1991

No. 260

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BALLINEASPAIG, CORK

WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHURCH



God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female' (Gen.1:27). Man and woman - as intimate and equal partners - were to body forth God in this world. God's own wholeness included male and female. Jesus announced in the Nazareth Synagogue that he would set free the oppressed, heal the brokenness and divisions which marred humanity. With regard to Jesus and women we have no recorded comment from him justifying his actions. He just got on with relating to them as God intended. The mounting scandal and danger were ignored. For a Jewish woman to leave home and travel with a rabbi was scandalous. Men and women from all walks of life were united as Jesus' disciples; centuries-old barriers were simply swept away.

The importance of Paul is that we find in his churches an awareness that the one thing that mattered - Christ's transforming presence demanded the abolition of sexism. The true Christ-life is inconsistent with divisions and inequalities that stunt people's

We have to remember that prophets were specially apt to preside over the Eucharist.

In Paul's farewell greetings to individuals in the Church in Rome, six women are mentioned, several of them explicitly called 'fellow workers' or 'apostles'. In a letter written by one of Paul's disciples we hear of 'Nympha and the church in her house', where she'd be likely to preside. This life as human beings. So there could be 'no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free, between men and women.'

Paul begins 1 Cor. 11 by quoting what his correspondents had written about the dishonour of a man who publicly prays and prophesies with long hair and a woman who does so with unbound hair. Even the rear-guard Corinthians had no problem about women prophesying in public worship. Prophecy was the highest function in the church after apostle. Women, in other words, publicly shared their Spirit-given insights into what the Word of God was saying now to this local church.



like Junia, 'an apostle' in Romans 16:7 - was too much for later scribes. They discreetly changed the names to men's!

The Catholic Biblical Association of the USA declared: 'There is positive evidence in the New Testament that women did in fact exercise functions later associated with priestly ministry'. 'Women's ordination raises no theological difficulties other than those that stem from cultural motives' wrote a Jesuit who has long been a leading expert in this field in 1979. Even though in 1976 Pope Paul VI issued an encyclical that opposed women's ordination, the Church's greatest theologian, Karl Rahner felt obliged to question the validity of its basic argument. 'The discussion must go on', he said. 'The courage to change is part of the truth that the Church owes its Lord'.



We welcome into our Christian community:

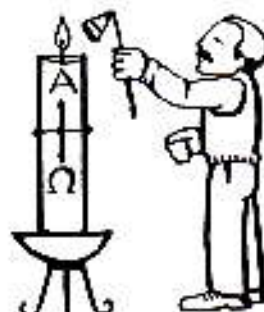
RHONA ELIZABETH GOBNAIT HUNT,
School Avenue, Glasheen, daughter
of Sean and Ita.

SEAN CILLIAN DAVIN, Farranlea
Park, son of John and Mary.

Wedding

CONGRATULATIONS to the following who were recently married:
FICNA KENNEDY, Woodleigh Park,
who married Ronald Flood, Bally-
jamesduff.

Liturgical Roles



SACRISTAN

THE SACRISTAN works prior to, during and after all Masses, every day except Wednesday. He also prepares for and attends at weddings and funerals.

His duties include preparation of the altar for Mass and ensuring that all the various requisites are in proper supply. He checks and banks money from collections and shrines and keeps church, sacristy and crypt areas in order and as clean as possible.

The Sacristan also provides birth and other certificates on request in the sacristy and is indeed glad to help callers in any other way he can.

There are ways in which church goers can greatly assist the Sacristan. One is by keeping the church as clean as possible. Secondly, if you think you may have mislaid something in the church, please check with him, as many articles found in the church are never claimed. Finally, when coming to church please ensure that your dog stays at home.

We have always had outstanding Sacristans in the church of the Holy Spirit and our present Sacristan Charlie Leahy is continuing the tradition.



Rest in Peace

CATHERINE O'BEIRNE, Roger Casement Park, died over the summer months after struggling with failing health for some time. She showed great courage in coping with pain and discomfort. She is remembered as a caring mother and a quiet and gentle neighbour. Our sincere sympathy to all her family.

ALICE (CISS) DEMPSEY, Wilton Avenue, died suddenly at home on 17th July. She will be remembered as a lovely mother and grandparent. Considered by both family and friends as a very independent and spiritual lady, our sympathy to her two sons and daughter and all her grandchildren.

MICHAEL KELLEHER, Kenley Avenue, died at home in July after a brief illness. A native of Kilmurray, he had a great interest in the sporting achievements of his native parish. Our sympathy to his sons and daughters.



Our sincere sympathy is offered to LIAM O'LEARY, Woodleigh Park, and to DONAL O'LEARY, Farranlea Park, on the death of their sister, Mairead.

COMMENT

ALTERNATIVE SLANTS by "THOMAS"

DO YOU remember praying for the conversion of Russia? Do you feel some triumph now that communism is about to be purged? Some western reaction was quite triumphant.

Admiration is a more apt reaction rather than triumph. The people who nurtured glasnost and perestroika for the past few years and who ultimately brought about the climate of free expression we witnessed in the past fortnight must surely be among the heroes of our age. When called on to declare their loyalties, many of them were not found wanting in knowing where their convictions lay. How would we have fared? If we were not in high places but just ordinary citizens - as most of us are - where would we have been - out in part of the parliament building, or safely tucked up in bed? We were privileged to see thousands of people spontaneously opting for democracy, the right to free expression and a future of human rights rather than oppression. Did we let it challenge us as it should?

After similar events in eastern Europe, Pope John Paul wrote: "It is right in the present difficulties, that formerly communist countries should be aided by the united effort of other nations."

Let us hope that the market economy that the West will hopefully help to build in the East will not have capitalism with marginalisation of the weaker and poorer members of society as its other name. They are deserving of better from us.



NOTICE BOARD

First Friday

Next Friday, 6th September, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days. Confessions on Thursday night at 8.

Reminder



Ministers of the Word

There will be a meeting of the Ministers of the Word on Monday at 8.10 p.m. in the C.P. Centre. Please bring along your Sunday missals.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society
Monthly meeting will take place on Thursday next, 5th September, in C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

*Church
Schedule*



Evening Mass

The 7.30 p.m. Mass commences again this Monday, 2nd.

Community School Mass

The 10.00a.m. Sunday Mass in the Community School begins again on this Sunday, 1st September.



The Rehabilitation Institute have written to say a very sincere 'thank you' to all who contributed so generously to the recent church gate collection. They would be delighted to show any parishioners around their facilities in Douglas or Hollyhill.

CLASSES



Evening Classes

Enrolment for Evening Classes in Bishopstown Community School will take place on 11th September between 7 - 9 p.m. Details available in the C.P. Centre.

THE BEST THINGS TO GIVE...

- To your enemy, forgiveness;
- to an opponent, tolerance;
- to a friend, your ear;
- to your child, good example;
- to a father, reverence;
- to your mother, conduct that will make her proud;
- to yourself, respect;
- to all men, charity.