

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Sunday, Feb. 14th, 1993



No. 327

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENEHYS CROSS, COBK



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Finbarr writes

Walking around the city last Wednesday I couldn't but notice the great lengths that people went to, and the imagination used by poets, animators, etc., on the different ways of telling somebody, "I love you". While their sort of commercialism is often condemned, I say "long live the romantics". Valentine's Day cheers up many a person.

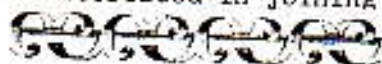
Those in love amongst us today might receive a rose, card, chocolates. Let's not forget that there are exterior expressions of affection. These are worthless if we fail to put into practice what St. Paul tells us love really is: "Always patient and kind, it is never jealous, love is never boastful or conceited, it is never rude or selfish, it does not take offence and is not resentful."

I know many a person who would gladly exchange the candlelight dinners, the rose or card, if the person they love put St. Paul's words into practice.

Fr. Sean Crowley C.C.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

A reminder that there will be a meeting in the Crypt on Tuesday 16 February at 8 p.m. to discuss the possibility of holding a pilgrimage to either Lourdes or Fatima this year. Please come if you are interested in joining us.



The Legend of Saint Valentine

According to legend, the Valentine takes its name from a young Christian priest who lived in ancient Rome. Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine had been imprisoned because of his faith... Often and longingly he thought of his loved ones and wanted to assure them of his well-being and of his love for them... Beyond his cell window, just within reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some of the heartshaped leaves and pricked them with the words, "Remember your Valentine," and sent them off by a friendly dove... On the next day, and the next, he sent more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the Valentine have its beginning. And so it has been through the ages... those who love, remember... and send Valentines to express their love.

Temperance Sunday

The Irish Episcopal Conference has designated Sunday before Ash Wednesday, 21st February, as Temperance Sunday. On that day the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association intends to launch a nationwide campaign to encourage people to abstain from alcohol for Lent.

Anyone wishing to take a Temporary Pledge may be enrolled and get badges by phoning Liam O'Driscoll at 544682, or Judith Coffey at 542907.



QUESTION: It's very easy to say 'forgive and forget', but it's really expecting too much, isn't it?

ANSWER: It would be very arrogant of me to say, "Well, that's what the Lord wants of us". And, of course, it IS very difficult.

Christ, whom we profess to follow, was insulted, betrayed, tortured and, in the end, crucified. It is unlikely in the extreme that we will have to undergo all of these things.

But HE forgave and even prayed for His tormentors. He expects us to forgive too, just as God is always ready to forgive us.

And if we can't always forget, at least let us root the bitterness out of our hearts.

PRAYER IN DEPRESSION

O God, who made grit of this rock, through a broken and troubled mind, mix the cement of your grace with it, wet from the tear-stream of repentance, fasten in the mould of your Son; dry with the fire of the Holy Spirit, and people will say when I am released - here is a re-birth. Praise the Lord.

THE LIBRARY

Few people can claim to be such independent thinkers that they can remain uninfluenced by what they read. While our opinions may not be shaped by the newspapers, while our tastes may not be developed by our choice of reading, books have, nevertheless, a power of direction which we recognize only when we start recommending literature to those in whose cultural or spiritual welfare we are interested.

If one twists our Lord's saying, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear", to "He that hath eyes to see let him read" - the Parish has provided this facility at the C.P. Centre. It is known as the Parish Library. There is quite a varied selection of books (donated mostly by the Parishioners) to suit all ages.

Familiarity with the word of God cannot be developed unless the Recorded Word is read. The invitation is there for all. Readers are encouraged to give their opinions of the books available, by submission of short written reviews.

The opening times :

Mon - Wed: 10.30 to 12 noon.

Sunday: After all Masses.



THE OLD WOMAN

As a white candle in a holy place,
So is the beauty of an aged face;
As the spent radiance of a
winter's sun,
So is a woman with her travail
done;
Her brood gone from her and her
thoughts as still
As the waters under a ruined mill.



Thinking Anew

Devaluation . . . Never!

Nuala O'Faoláin, in a trenchant *Irish Times* article, asked us why our lives often fail to match the faith we profess. She forces us to examine our conscience. When we consider people like Mother Teresa, Jean Vanier, Leonard Cheshire, George Otto Simms, Basil Hume and others we realise that their influence comes to us from the awesome force of a life fully lived in the light of the gospel. They are indeed teachers, but they are first and foremost witnesses. We are familiar with Christ's teaching of sower and seed, of vine and branch, of light and darkness. Amid crisis and conflict, choice and challenge, they offered a response in the light of ultimate truth.

What of us? There is a sense of failure at the heart of society now. Many are lost, bewildered and baffled.

Every one has a vital role. This Sunday we face a reality we so often ignore. Christ makes plain our calling, "... You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world ..." We open St Matthew's gospel at chapter 5. The message is crystal clear. The word *salt* speaks its story vividly. Do I preserve all that is best in family and workplace? Or do I cause decay and loss of ideals and of hope?

We have just celebrated the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. For centuries this light-filled feast has been known as Candlemas. We ask to walk in the Light and to carry the light of truth and comfort and healing and peace to all

who live in darkness. We know the dark of despair, of cruelty, of hate, of division, of lust and endless greed. Each of us, though wounded, is called to be a healer. I am a vital link in the mysterious chain of events and of persons. May I not be a rotting link causing collapse and failure.

Each day this week, in moments of quiet, let the words *salt* and *light* echo in mind and heart. They come to us linked to the Beatitudes. They ask many deep questions. St Thomas Aquinas tells us that each dynamic sacrament gives to us the fullness of grace it symbolises unless we, in folly and bad will, place an obstacle. We go forward into spring-time with hope made anew.

The earth awakens. Snowdrop, crocus, daffodil and budding trees gladden both eye and heart. The age-old prayer comes to our lips, "grant to our souls a Springtime too." John Henry Newman, as always, comes to our help, "... Life passes. Riches fly away. Popularity is fickle. The senses decay. The world changes. Friends die. One alone is constant. One alone is true. One alone can be all things to us ..."

On the day we die all our pounds, for us, will be devalued by one hundred per cent. Across the final customs barrier we take nothing. The treasures resulting from our being salt and light will most surely last. We risk no final devaluation. Lord, teach us how to pray!

F. MacN.



Announcements

Jean Donovan Memorial Conference

Building the International Community "From Conflict to Understanding", 19 & 20 February U.C.C. Speakers:

Michael D. O'Higgins, TD.
Prof. Geoffrey Best, Oxford.
Margaret Hebblethwaite, Asst. Editor, The Tablet.
Dr. Donal Dorr, Kiltegan Fathers.

Fees:

Conference, incl. lunch £25
Conference Only £15
Individual Lecture £5
Full time students: Conference only £5.

Programme can be seen at C.P. Centre.

For further information phone U.C.C. 276871, ext. 2631/2302.

Talk on Horticulture

At Mount Mercy College on Tuesday, 16th February at 8.10 p.m. by Mr. Ted O'Donnell (Teagasc Advisor). The talk will cover:

- 1) Career opportunities within horticulture field.
- 2) A practical guide to knowing your own garden.

Admission £1 / students and O.A.P.'s free.

Aifreann le Gaeilge

Beidh Aifreann dhatheangach a cheiliuradh an Domhnach seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog. Mar chabhair daoibh beidh bileog an Aifrinn ar fail an mhaidin sin.

Crèche

A crèche is available for infants and toddlers every Sunday during the 11.00 and 12.15 Masses. This service is provided free of charge.

Family Ministry

A support system for families, which runs courses in the following:

1. **Leadership Training:** For anyone who has participated in one of the Diocesan Parenting Programmes.
2. **Praying with Scripture:** Open to all who are interested in deepening their prayer life (7 weeks).
3. **Beginning Experience:** A support group for those bereaved through death or separation of a spouse.
4. **Ongoing Leadership Formation:** Enrichment days for programme leaders.
5. **Support for Married Couples:** Encouraging couples to grow through listening and communication (4 weeks).
6. **Parenting & Sex Education:** Developing a healthy attitude to sexuality (5 weeks).

For further information please contact the Family Ministry Office, 34 Paul Street, tel. 273213.

Education Forum Lecture

"The Impact of the Behavioural Sciences on Education for the 21st Century" by Dr. W. Coulson, Ph.D. Philosophy & Psychology, at U.C.C. Geography Building, Donovan's Road, on Monday 15th February at 8 p.m.

Bulletin to Parish Homes

There will be a Bulletin delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 274888**