

Sunday, Feb. 28th, 1993



BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

1st Sunday in Lent



No. 329

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DE HAMBURG, GARDOL, IRELAND

SEASON OF LENT

LENTEN GRACE

Thank you God for this food and the other things which you have given us in Ireland. May we never become selfish and think only of ourselves. May we never forget to share with those who have not.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
The Dean writes

Did you know that Lent began as something of an afterthought in the Christian tradition? The early Christians celebrated Easter and the following weeks to Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then they realised that such a celebration needed a time of preparation.

The original preparation time was just the last three days of Holy Week. Gradually it grew to be the same length as the celebration itself. The idea was - and is - that we would better appreciate God's love for us in our care-filled lives. The word Lent as you know means Spring, and it meant a new beginning in our love and service of Jesus.

The gift of Faith in God's love for us is precious, yet we can let it die through neglect. Few of us appreciate the gift of pure water until excessive chlorine gets into the Waterworks - then we are on to Cork Local Radio on the spot. Lent is a time for cutting back on some selfishness in our hearts - to make room for the receiving and giving which we call love.

Our appreciation of the love of God for us is nurtured in prayer, especially shared prayer. Our appreciation of each other is nurtured in our concern for others.

This Lent is an opportunity to respond to God's love in our lives. This Spring will never come again. Let's make it a beautiful memory as a time filled with prayerful faith, hope and love. Amen.

Denis O'Winnor PP



**EDUCATION, COMMUNITY,
RESPONSIBILITY**

What do we mean by equal access to education? Can we claim to be educating our children to be responsible citizens? Is the School Attendance Officer our answer to the growing numbers who see our schools as irrelevant?

Perhaps education has to move out into the community in a more flexible way?

Here in Cork, and elsewhere, exciting and innovative developments are emerging, where community-based groups are taking up the initiative to meet needs that have arisen in their local areas - particularly in deprived and disadvantaged areas.

This area, vital to the health and stability of our society, is mentioned in the recent Green Paper on Education, but it is only through active community awareness that a commitment to support such initiatives will find its way into the forthcoming White Paper, due next October.

We are fortunate to have Mr. Denis Staunton of UCC's Department of Social Work and Administration, who is active as a teacher, advisor and researcher in this area, to give us a talk followed by discussion (and refreshments!) in the Church Crypt on Tuesday 9th March at 8 p.m. So do please make a note in your diary for that date!

THANK YOU

Thanks from the Friendship Club

To the Marian Pack Brownies who provided entertainment and information on "Brownies" for the Club on Monday; also the lovely cakes baked by them for our afternoon tea -

Lyn McCarthy, Philippa Harris, Sharon Kelly, Elaine Rooney, Lydia Sweetney, Sinead O'Donoghue, Carol O'Herlihy and Amy Healy.

They are great ambassadors for their Guides, school and young people in this year of Older People.

R T E

Lenten Discussion Programme

A series from the RTE Religious Programmes Department called "These Forty Days" will begin on Sunday, 28th Feb. on RTE 1 at 10.25p.m. The series will be chaired by Don Cockburn, former newsreader and will take the format of a discussion on the relevance of the Ten Commandments in today's world. Each Sunday evening he will be looking at various aspects of different Commandments and inviting four guests to talk about their feelings, concerns, hopes, understanding and knowledge of the Commandments.

The producer, Fr Dermot McCarthy says he hopes that the new series might entice viewers of all religious persuasions and none to examine the "God side" of themselves for "These Forty Days".



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

"Turn away from sin" intoned the priest as he placed ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, "and be faithful to the gospel".

In the wake of the dreadful murder of young James Bulger in Liverpool and the senseless massacre of Valerie Place in Somalia, one wonders about the presence of evil in our society.

We are so battered by violence in the media that there is a danger of our becoming inured to it. But the evil is there. We do not call it sin any more. Is what two ten-year old children do in Liverpool sinful? Or what a group of bandits do in Somalia? "Be faithful to the gospel". What gospel? If they are unaware of the message, can it be sinful?

The danger is in retaliating, isn't it? To strike out against these people? This is where we Christians, I suppose, must be faithful to the gospel. And it must be the gospel as we know it and not, as I heard a priest say recently, our own version of it.

He also added that when we witness these atrocities and ask, where are we going, we should have faith in the promise of Christ to be with us to the end of time. Christ, he said, would see us through - and not our puny efforts!!



BAPTISMS

We welcome the following babies into our Christian community:

JULIE CATHERINE McDONNELL
EOIN HENRY McCONVILLE
ALANNA MICHELLE BRADY
CAOIMHE CLIODHINA DENNEHY
AOIFE O'SULLIVAN

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere sympathy to FINBARR RONAYNE, Avondale, Model Farm Road, on the death of his brother.

To IVOR COVEAS, Mount Eden, Kenley, on the death of his father.

To LOUISE KIRLY, Model Farm Road, on the death of her mother and sister-in-law.

To MARY MURPHY, Orchard Road, on the death of her sister.

Bishopstown Community Association

Monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday 2 March at 8 p.m. in Wilton Park House. Executive Meeting at 7 p.m.

1993 is the Year of the Elderly - in our community this year let us make every effort to celebrate this event. Ideas, suggestions please!

The B.C.A. newsletter is on the way back - articles, sponsorship, ads, notices of events, etc. from all groups in the area most welcome. Publication date 9th April, articles by 17 March please.

Reminder of French twinning group with Rennes. People interested please attend next meeting of B.C.A.



First Friday

Next Friday, 5th March, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

Women's World Day of Prayer

International and Interdenominational will take place in the Church of the Real Presence on Friday, 5th March at 10.30 a.m. This invitation to prayer comes to us from Christian women of Guatemala.

Lenten Scripture Course

Fr. John is leading a scripture course on St. Matthew's Gospel for five Tuesday in Lent - 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 March in the C.P. Centre from 8.00 to 9.00 p.m. Those who wish to participate please sign on in the C.P. Centre.

St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Monthly meeting takes place next Thursday, 4th March, in the C.P. Centre at 8 p.m.

CMAC Annual Collection

CMAC is a church sponsored marriage and family counselling organisation which offers help to individuals or couples experiencing difficulty in marriage or family relationships.

As a voluntary organisation it is dependent on voluntary subscriptions. The annual collection will be held at church doors next weekend 6th/7th March. Please support.

Mass for Peace & Reconciliation

Will be concelebrated at St. Francis Church on Sunday 7th March at 3.30 p.m. The special preacher will be Bishop Francis Lagan, Derry. All are welcome.

Mass for the Elderly

A reminder that there will be a Mass for senior citizens at St. Francis Church this Sunday at 3 p.m.

Cards in the Afternoon

Anyone interested in playing '45' can come along to the C.P. Centre at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday March 4th. If enough people are interested, it will continue every Thursday.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

As places are filling up, please pay your £60 deposit by 7th March to Joe O'Reilly Tours, Western Road, or contact Fr. Finbarr.

The Universe Publication

The Universe will run a special series of articles on Marriage over the next few weeks - to be followed by a series on the New Universe Catechism.

Lenten Reading

The book racks at the Church porches are stocked with a special selection of Lenten booklets - all very reasonably priced at 50p. Please take one.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 274888**