



Sunday, February 13th, 1994

No. 369

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEWEEN'S CROSS, CO. DK.



Ash Wednesday

Day of Fast and Abstinence

Fasting

Limitations on food and drink.

Abstaining

Refraining from certain kinds of food or drink, typically meat. From the first century, the day of the crucifixion has been traditionally observed as a day of abstaining from flesh meat ("black fast") to honour Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday.

Formerly

In the modern Church until 1966, the regulations for days of fast prescribed taking only one full daily meal, plus breakfast and a "collation" (a light meal).

Fast-Abstinence days: Ash Wednesday, Lenten Fridays and Saturdays, Ember Days, certain feast's vigils.

Fast Days: All Lenten Days, Sunday excepted.

Currently

In Pope Paul VI's constitution Paenitemini 1966:

- the meaning of fasting was explained;
- the obligation was restated;
- the extent of the obligation was changed;
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are universal days of fast and abstinence;

- every Friday calls for some act of penance when abstinence from meat is not observed;
- specific regulations left to bishops in their episcopal conferences.

Church Law binds as follows:

- a. The Law of Abstinence (not eating meat) obliges those who have completed their fourteenth year.
- b. The law of fast (only one full meal each day, nothing between meals) obliges those who have completed their 21st year until the beginning of their 60th year.
- c. Proportionately grave inconvenience excuses from the laws of fast and abstinence.

Lenten Action

We all tend to wring our hands in frustration at seeing the misery in the world, especially the Third World. No, we can't do much to influence the warring factions in these countries to stop wasting their resources in their thirst for power, and instead feed their hungry.

TROCAIRE are trying to do something to alleviate the hardship. Here at least we can help. YOU can help. Collect your TROCAIRE box from the church. Put it somewhere obvious in the home. YOUR Lenten contribution to TROCAIRE might make a big difference for someone out there.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

*Hail to the Lord who comes,
Comes to his temple gate,
Not with his angel hosts,
Not in his kingly state,
But borne upon the throne
Of Mary's gentle breast,
Thus to his Father's house
He comes a humble guest.*

"This humble guest" comes to us in many simple unobtrusive ways, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear. He comes to heal, to encourage, to forgive and to bring us hope. The delicate fragility of the first snowdrop in the dark days of January tells us that Spring is on the way. The singing of the blackbird, the thoughtful kindness of a neighbour, even a hot cup of tea or coffee can lift our spirits. A shaft of sunshine can bring a smile even on a good day. These are some of the "little miracles" by which our "humble guest" visits us. Let us be aware and not miss Him when He comes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats to Brian Healy, Kenley Crescent, on winning the Irish Boys U-14 Squash championship in Belfast recently, and to his sister Ciara on reaching the semi-final of the Girls U-14 championship.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION/GIFTS

With reference to the letter to the Editor on Bulletin dated 6th February, our Parish Liturgy Group suggests that at the Saturday Vigil Mass, and the 11.00 and 12.15 Sunday Masses at which an Offertory Procession takes place, the collection baskets containing envelopes and cash should be linked together with the gifts of bread and wine.

Following the Prayers of the Faithful, there should be a short pause, during which the collection takes place. Two of the collectors should then proceed to the gift table and follow the gift bearers to the altar rails, to hand their collection baskets to the celebrant.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to PAT NEWTON, Farranlea Grove, on the death of his mother Peggy. To MARGARET O'KEEFFE, Leesdale, on the death of her brother.



AWARE

A voluntary organisation to help people suffering from depression. Public Lecture "Management of Depression" on Wednesday 16th February at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Theatre, Cork Regional Hospital. Speaker - Dr. Mary McCarthy, Psychiatric Registrar. All are welcome. Admission free.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

"Luke" continues his comment on Fr. Owen O'Sullivan's article in *The Furrow*.

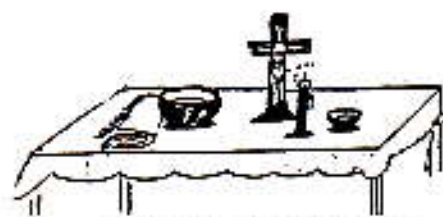
SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD

Fr. O'Sullivan claims that there is a current of unrest among priests on the question of celibacy and other matters. "Money and power," he says, "may have more to do with the law on celibacy than doctrine or tradition."

The appointment of bishops too, comes under fire in Fr. O'Sullivan's article. The manner of their appointment and their theological make-up comes under scrutiny. The bishops themselves, he feels, "are experiencing a sense of being excluded from decision making in the Church."

The "Silent Schism", as he calls it, "is not about doctrine: it is about power." Power, he says, can be exercised as dictation or as dialogue. At the moment, despite Vatican II's emphasis on "communio", the Church leadership is not listening and is missing opportunities for growth as a result.

Centralisation and renewed authoritarianism are alienating more and more people. It is time, Fr. O'Sullivan says, to hope that "the Pope could again become Peter, not a chairman of the board, but someone who strengthens his brothers, a motivator, a unifier, a bridge-builder, a servant of the servants of God."



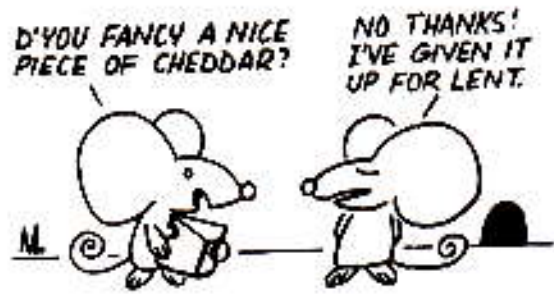
SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Prayers are said for the sick at Sunday and weekday Masses. If you know of a neighbour or family member who is ill, you may write the name on a slip of paper (provided on the Offertory Table in the centre of the Church). Parishioners in hospital are posted a parish prayer card assuring them of the concern and prayers of the parish. All names appearing on the list are remembered at Mass.

Anyone unable to attend Sunday Mass because of illness may ask a Minister of the Eucharist to bring Holy Communion. The priests of the parish visit the sick for Confession and Holy Communion on the First Friday, or the day before it. To prepare for the visit please have a table set up near the sick person, with the following items:

A white cloth covering table, a crucifix, a candle or two, holy water, bowl of water and hand towel.

All in the house may receive Holy Communion with the sick person.





LENT

Lent commences next Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed during each of the four Masses.

MASSES:

Monday - Friday
7.30 a.m. 9.00, 10.00 a.m.
7.30 p.m.

SCRIPTURE READING:

In C.P. Centre commencing
Tuesday 15th at 8 p.m.

TAIZE PRAYER:

Thursdays after 7.30 p.m.
Mass for 30 minutes.

BENEDICTION:

Sundays at 5.30 p.m.

N.B. Daily Exposition in
Poor Clares Chapel from
7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. with
Benediction at 5.30 p.m.

Bulletins to the Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to every home in the parish next weekend.

Aifreann le Gaeilge

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

Pastoral Council

Meeting in C.P. Centre at 8.10 p.m. on Monday 14th.

Readings for Sunday 20 February

Gen. 9:8-15. Ps. 24. 1 Pet. 3:18-22. Mk 1:12-15.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit the remainder of College and Magazine Roads this week, and Fr. John will begin visitation of the homes in Lima Lawn this week.

Temperance Sunday

Sunday February 13th has been designated Temperance Sunday. On that day the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association encourages people to abstain from alcohol for Lent.

Anyone wishing to take a Temporary Pledge may be enrolled and get badges at the C.P. Centre after the 10, 11 and 12.15 Masses on this Sunday.

Lenten Scripture Reading

Interested in doing something extra for Lent? The Scripture Reading for Beginners may be for you. Details and enrolment in the C.P. Centre. You will need your own Bible. The first meeting will be on Shrove Tuesday 15th February and meetings will continue on subsequent Tuesdays throughout Lent at 8 p.m.

People of Faith

Monthly Mass, Friday 18th February, at 8 p.m. in St. Columba's Church, Douglas. Celebrant: Fr. Kevin Lanigan. Theme of Mass - The Time Has Come.

Easter in Lourdes

Six days (30 March to 4th April), Hotel Belview, depart Cork 12 noon. All in £337. Contact Maura Ahern 961399 or Joan Desmond 963444.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 271551**