



Sunday, March 6th, 1994

No. 372

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

3rd Sunday in Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
The Dean writes

*I love to go awandering
Along the mountain track,
And as I go, I love to sing,
My knapsack on my back.*

Generations of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides have chanted these lines on summer hikes. There is a carefree air about them that befits young people.

However, we all know how important it is to know where we are going, and to know the way; otherwise we may get lost like the mountain climbers in Wicklow last week.

Lent is a great time to reflect and take stock of where we are going - and avoid getting lost in the world of work and pleasure - running into a cul-de-sac in life.

On Ash Wednesday we heard - "Turn away from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel." In other words - go back to the drawing board, and where need be, chart a change of direction - re-route - put God back at the centre of our lives - read again the Gospel of today's Mass.

Denis O'Connor PP

ST. SENAN AND INNISCARRA

Tuesday (8th) is the feastday of St. Senan. Although he hailed from near Kilrush, Co. Clare, and spent most of his life there, he did visit Cork and founded a settlement near Inniscarra, the present day ruined Church of Inishleena or Inishluinga. The scenery at this spot is perhaps the most delightful on the Lee, and well worth a visit. Senan was anamchara to St. Brendan and Ciaran of Clonmacnoise. He died in 544.

Lenten Action

NURTURE FAITH

As a Christian, my faith is centred on the reality of the resurrection. This gives me a reason for hope and optimism.

- * I will set aside time to think about what God's love means to me.
- * I will offer my fears and anxieties to Jesus Christ.
- * I will trust God.

NURTURE GIFTS

You are made in the image of God. You are special.

- * I will list my strengths and thank God for them.
- * What have I achieved that I am proud of? Thank God.
- * What will be my goals for the coming year? Entrust them to God.

Rest In Peace

We pray for Diarmuid (Jerry) Long, late of Bendemeer Park, who died suddenly last week. His untimely death was a great shock to his colleagues in the V.E.C. offices in the County Hall, who will miss his good sense of humour. To his wife Veronica, who will miss him most of all, to his brother, sister and relatives, we offer you our sympathy and prayers.

We pray for the late Ibar Wyley of Bishops court Road, who died unexpectedly. His death came as a great shock to many people. Ibar was a very successful businessman, and more importantly, to quote one of his own family, "a shy man who took immense pride in his family." To his wife Mary, children Niamh, Ronan, Stephen and Alan, his mother, brothers and sisters, we offer our sympathy.



We offer our sincere sympathy to MAUREEN BOYLAN, College Road, on the death of her sister.

To PEGGIE CRONIN, Woodlawn, on the death before Christmas of her father Patrick Casey.



LETTER

Woodlawn,
Model Farm Road

Dear Editor,

Your correspondent (Bulletin 20th Feb.) feels the need for a "ministry of explaining truths" and warns that the church "cannot water His (Jesus') teachings down to accommodate my lack of understanding."

My perspective is different. My starting point is the water of everyday life. I seek to transform my ordinariness into the wine of God's desiring. Or more appropriately, I try to allow God to blend and brew his will with my work, my will, my understanding.

I begin with my little faith and ask God to help my unbelief. I begin with my little understanding and ask God to help my ignorance. I begin with my life and ask God to heal my darkness.

There is a time for passion, a time for compassion; there is a time for being radical and a time sentry duty; there is a time for knowledge and a time for wisdom. But there is never a time when life stands still. Living life in its fullness is finally what unveils the mystery of God's truths for us and our world.

Yours sincerely,
(name and address with Editor)



COMMENT

ALTERNATIVE SLANTS

BY NAOMI

A sense of ordered calm was conveyed in a Lenten T.V. documentary recently. The programme featured the Benedictines of Glenstal Abbey and gave telling glimpses of their monastic routine. Prayer is the cornerstone on which the monks build their life; a life which incorporates a variety of occupations, gathers together diverse personalities and gifts and gently fosters creative and contemplative talents.

The accompanying commentary provided by some of the community was positive and affirmative. It was heartening to be reminded, during a season that traditionally has negative overtones, that we are made in the image and likeness of God. It was pointed out that monks are exceptional people in being called to a special form of intimacy with God. Coming from people with such a regulated life of prayer, the outstanding comment was that prayer, in whatever form, essentially comes from the heart.

For the ordinary lay person who struggles to find God in the less structured pattern of daily living, with its conflicts, tensions and dualities, this programme soothed the spirit.

"You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother's womb.

For so many marvels I thank you."

Ps.139

LENT AND TIME-OUT

In the Catholic tradition, we have our retreat houses, parish novenas, and annual Lenten observance. It is the idea of getting off "the merry-go-round" for a while and standing away from life in order to take a realistic look at ourselves. Through the mass media modern life is constantly imposing its neon-light values on all of us. These values are glittering and tempting. Francis of Assisi was fed up with this kind of life and "dropped out". The Lenten season helps us to focus our attention on the real thing and the real me. Put aside some extra time for Bible reading or take part in the Church activities. Doing things together makes it easier!

"Start up a steep hill in bottom gear." There is no need to tear into Lent hell for leather! Better to start with a small sacrifice you can deliver than promise God the whole world!

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

Emily Dickinson

WELL, REALLY!

"In 1969 I published a small book on Humility. It was a pioneering work which has not, to my knowledge, been superseded."

Lord Longford in The Tablet,
22 January 1944



Catholic Marriage Advisory Council

The annual collection will be held at all Masses next weekend. C.M.A.C. provides pre-marriage courses, support and help for couples who are experiencing marriage difficulties and many more services.

As this is the first special Collection since the envelope system was introduced, please bring along the special envelope together with the normal Sunday envelope.

Ministers of the Word

Meeting in C.P. Centre on Monday 7th at 8.10 p.m.

Lenten Devotions

Benediction will continue on Sundays at 5.30 p.m. and Taize Prayer on Thursdays after the 7.30 p.m. Mass.

Visitation

This week Fr. John will continue visitation in Upper Leedale, and Fr. Finbar will continue in Model Farm Road.

Table Quiz

At Bishopstown G.A.A. on 8th March at 8 p.m. in aid of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh (B). Please support. For further information contact 545790 or 343752.

Faith and Irish Women

Reflective weekend at St. Dominic's, Ennismore on March 12/13. Preacher Fr. Len Ferrem, O.P. Booking forms available in C.P. Centre.

SMOG.....

Smog is a combination of smoke and fog. We get smog when smoke is prevented from rising into the atmosphere in cold, calm weather. The principle source of smoke is the ordinary fireplace where solid fuels are burnt. Smog can be a health hazard - especially for the very young, the elderly and those already in poor health. People with chest ailments are particularly at risk. What can we do about it? SWITCH TO CLEANER, LESS POLLUTING FUELS - use electric heating or natural gas - use low smoke fuels such as Coalite, Rheinbraun union coal nuggets/briketts, Bord na Mona peat briquettes, etc. Keep Cork's Air Clean!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

St. John tells us that just before Jesus died he said this prayer to his Father in heaven:

"Father, keep my friends safe! May you be as close to them as you are to me. And may they be happy and free from all harm."

Isn't it a nice prayer for any of us to say for our friends? Maybe you could copy it out, decorate it, and hang it in your room.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 271551**