



Sunday, March 13th, 1994

No. 373

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

4th Sunday In Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DERRINYS CROSS, COBK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

"There stood by the Cross of Jesus his Mother." John 19:25. Only a woman of supreme strength, courage and faith could stand by the Cross of her dying Son as Mary did. She stood silent amid the taunts and jeers not only of his chosen people, but of the leaders of those people also; the so-called wise and learned; well-versed in theology and scripture who had now become rabble rousers. "Crucify Him, Crucify Him" they had yelled at the Son, and his mother had the strength to stand in silence.

Is it too far fetched to suppose that they didn't let her off too lightly either? Would our imagination really be running away with us if we conjectured that more than a few well aimed insults came in her direction also?

And yet she stood, calm, dignified, silent. Why? Because the Mother of Sorrows had found meaning in suffering. At that hour, when the sword truly pierced her heart, Mary had the courage and faith to grow through suffering and to an even greater depth of life and love. She believed that "light shines in

darkness and darkness cannot overcome it." John 1:5. In that moment she became not only Mother of Sorrows, but Cause of our Joy, and Queen of Peace.

Mother's Day

LAETARE OR MOTHERING SUNDAY

This Sunday marks the halfway point in Lent and there is an easing on the penitential aspect.

This is shown by the rose vestments instead of violet at Mass. There is a joyful note at this point in Lent (Laetare = Rejoice) because of the ancient practice of 'handing over' the Apostles' Creed to catechumens, the last and decisive step for those preparing for baptism.

There was an ancient custom of visiting one's mother church on this day. Later, this changed into a day when children who lived apart from their mothers went 'a-mothering', that is, children would return home to spend the day with their mother and parents and bring flowers, gifts and sweets to their mother. Long before 1914, when Woodrow Wilson called for a 'Mother's Day', Mothering Sunday was building the tradition of honouring mothers.

COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

HIGHJACKING OF PEACE

The CORK EXAMINER commented editorially on Fr. Denis Faul's visit to Cork last weekend, as well as giving it news cover. Fr. Faul spoke fearlessly at the P.E.A.C.E. Mass last Sunday afternoon to a capacity congregation.

Provo power, he claimed, depends on violence. "The small town and side street godfathers will not relinquish the immense power they have. They rule with the absolute authority of life and death."

Sinn Fein, he claimed, has neither the ideology nor idealism. They are prepared to condemn loyalist paramilitaries, the British army or the R.U.C. - but not the I.R.A. They, too, seek power and are prepared to use any means, even Peace Initiatives, in their quest for that power.

The answer, Fr. Faul says, lies with the people. They must overcome fear, they must give no succour to the I.R.A., they must reject them, give them nothing. Only that way would moderate Catholic and moderate Protestant people bring about peace.

P.E.A.C.E. Week concludes this Sunday with a United Peace Service in the Methodist Church, Ardfallen, Douglas Road, at 4 p.m. All are welcome to come and pray for peace.

ACCEPTING FRAGILITY

"The most hard-driving and successful, in terms of money and power, are able best to hide their abiding fragility. Such hiding is an exhausting, self-defeating game, for the more power one has, the more one must acquire to stay on top, and the power we secure is finally never enough. There is little doubt that military might, greedy acquisitiveness, and brutality and abuse are all the outcomes of this terrible self-deception, of needing to pretend against our fragility. The Church is the primary place left in our society for the acknowledgement of our previous, undeniable weakness that depends upon uncommon gentleness and generosity. It is that candid reality of weakness and gentleness that will in the end permit the undoing of an abusive, fearful world of the self-sufficient and the formation of a new counter-world of genuine humanness."

- Walter Brueggemann in Post Modern Imagination (SCM Press)

CONGRATULATIONS

TO Sr. Ursula and all who were involved in organizing the Women's Day of Prayer last Friday.

It was a rewarding experience for the many women who came to join in the service - not to mention the men, all three of them! (or was it four?)



Deaths

Sr. Gabriel, Poor Clares, died after a long illness on February 20th. A native of Knocknagree, Co. Cork, she entered the Cork Poor Clares in 1941. In 1952 she moved to Glasgow where she stayed some years before returning to Cork as Abbess. For the past 16 months she bore her cross with her favourite word, Our Lady's "Fiat". She was a source of much inspiration too. She is survived by Sr. Carmela, Mercy Tralee, and brother Fr. Emilian, OFM Cap. and relatives.

Joan Goulding, Liam Lynch Park, died peacefully during the week. A quiet, unassuming person with a deep sense of God's presence in her life, Joan is missed by her neighbours and dear friends. We offer sympathy to her daughters Etta and Colleen, son Tom, and family.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to KATHLEEN O'SHEA, BishopsCourt Hill, on the death of her sister. To SHEILA McCARTHY, Poor Clare Lodge, College Road, on the death of her brother.

To Donal Vaughan, Mount Eden, Kenley on the death of his mother.

Lenten Action

Nurture Listening

Many, many people today are very lonely. They rarely, if ever, experience being listened to.

- * I will take time to listen to someone each day without interrupting them.
- * I will respect confidences and not repeat what I have heard.
- * I will respect the speaker even if I disagree with them.

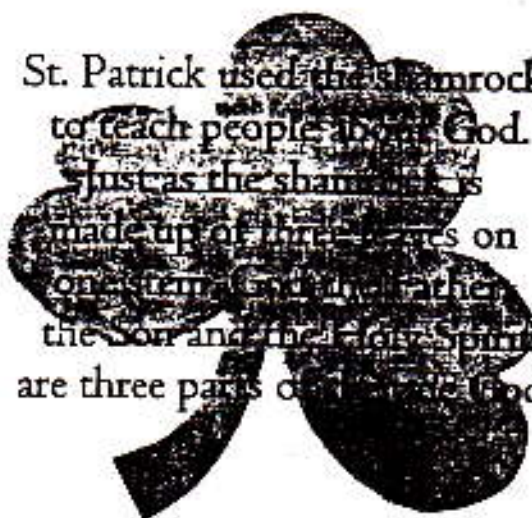
Nurture Prayer

There are all sorts of ways of prayer and different styles of getting to know our faithful, loving God.

- * I will set aside 10-15 minutes each day to sit silently before God.
- * I will think about the words of the liturgy in church.
- * I will try one new form of prayer this Lent.

St. Patrick and the Shamrock

St. Patrick used the Shamrock to teach people about God. Just as the shamrock is made up of three leaves on one stem, God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three parts of the one God.





St. Patrick's Day

Next Thursday 17th, and is a Holyday of Obligation. Vigil Mass on Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. and Masses on Thursday at 9, 10, 11 and 12.15. No evening Mass or Taize Prayer. Please note change in Vigil Mass time on Wednesday.



St. Patrick's Day

SHAMROCK

Do you wish to receive shamrock at a Mass on St. Patrick's Day? You do. Simple. Just sign on in the sacristy. It will be prepared for you and presented to you at your selected Mass. First come, first served.

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Aifreann le Gaeilge

Leifear Aifreann as Gaeilge an Dombanch seo chugainn ar a naoi a chlog. Tagaigi agus bigi pairteach linn.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will continue visitation on Model Farm Road, and Fr. John in Leesdale.

Pastoral Council

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

People of Faith

Monthly Mass, Friday 18th in St. Patrick's Church, Rochestown Road, at 8 p.m.



Open Day

First Steps A.M.I. Montessori School, Wilton Park House, on Sunday 13th March, 2-6 p.m. All welcome.

Northside Community Enterprises

Any unwanted furniture in good condition would be gratefully received for charitable cause. Phone Carol 307282 office hours.



COPE Foundation

Annual Charity Ball takes place on 16th March in Jurys Hotel. Tickets available at 133 Oliver Plunkett Street, tel. 272439.

Heart Disease and Stress

Public Lecture at Metropole Hotel on Tuesday 15th March at 8.15 p.m. Admission free.

Readings for Sunday 20 March

Jer. 31:31-34. Ps. 50. Heb. 5:7-9. Jn. 12: 20-30.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER: 271551**