



Sunday, 7th May, 1995

No. 423

# BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Vocations Sunday



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
DEWENTON CROSS, CO. DUB.



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*St. Ursula writes*

Perhaps I'm only imagining it, but I think the cherry blossoms have lasted much longer this Spring. I love this time of year when the trees are so green, the gorse so yellow, the cherry blossoms in bloom and more and more flowers in the gardens. I always think of it as a time of life and hope. Thanks be to God as I get older I find more reasons for hope, not less.

People often ask me if I'm worried about the lack of vocations to religious life. I'm not. How God calls is His business not ours. There's an old Irish saying, "God knows His own know", and I really believe that. Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, began with only two sisters and look how the congregation spread. Catherine didn't even want to be a nun and she ended up foundress of one of the biggest congregations of women in the Church today.

God doesn't depend on us, it is we who depend on Him. We have to keep reminding ourselves of that again and again. In today's Gospel Jesus tells us "The Father... is greater than anyone". That surely is our greatest reason for hope.



"Being ordained for God's service is a noble vocation that demands faith, courage and self-sacrifice. I am sure that such qualities are to be found among the young. To them I say: Be certain that Christ's call to the priesthood or religious life is addressed to some of you. Be certain that if you listen to his call and follow him in the priesthood or religious life, you will find great joy and great happiness. Be generous, take courage and remember his promise, 'My yoke is easy and my burden light.'"   
Pope John Paul II

## WEEK OF PRAYER AND RENEWAL

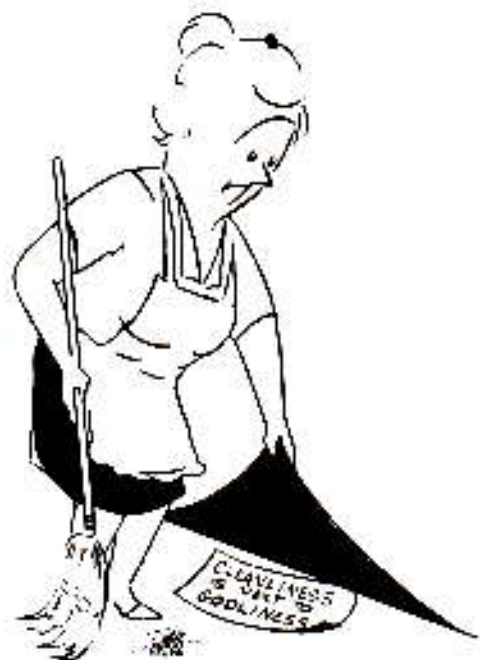
**Contact People and Council  
Members please note:**

*Very important Meeting in Crypt on  
Thursday 11 May at 8 p.m. re above  
week.*

### THE SUFFERING GOD

God would have us know that we must live as men who manage our lives without him. The God who is with us is the God who forsakes us (Mark 15:34). The God who lets us live in the world without the working hypothesis of God is the God before whom we stand continually. Before God and with God we live without God. God lets himself be pushed out of the world on to the cross. He is weak and powerless in the world, and that is precisely the way, the only way, in which he is with us and helps us. Matthew (8:17) makes it quite clear that Christ helps us, not by virtue of his omnipotence, but by virtue of his weakness and suffering.

- An extract from the Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Prison



We offer our sincere sympathy to MRS. MARY SCANNELL, 'Burnt Oak', Laburnum Drive, on the death of her sister, Kathleen Gaffney, in London.

To ROBERT BRODERICK, Lima Lawn, on the death of his brother Dan, and his sister-in-law Eileen.

### 50th Anniversary

Congratulation to Sister Thecla, St. Columba's Convent, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of her profession.

### A TIME TO TALK

When a friend calls to me from  
the road  
And slows his horse to a meaning  
walk,  
I don't stand still and look  
around  
And shout from where I am, "What  
is it?"  
No, not as there is a time to  
talk.  
I thrust my hoe in the mellow  
ground,  
Blade-end up and five feet tall,  
And plod: I go up to the stone  
wall  
For a friendly visit.

Robert Frost



# COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

## THE GOD SQUAD

The media has been covering the on-going debate on abortion. What could or should be a clear-cut vindication of the right to life of the ubborn child has become clouded by the introduction of rape, incest and the health of the mother. These are issues which need to be dealt with dispassionately and with Christian, caring attitudes. But they are not.

Instead, on the one hand we have the excessive zeal of some of the pro-life people overstating their case. On the other side, we have the equally unbending attitude of some liberals who want to force their opinions on all.

One columnist recently referred to the former as 'The God Squad'. One would have hoped that we are ALL on the God Squad!! The excesses on both sides don't help the debate.

Now we enter the final phase of the divorce debate. Are we to witness the same extreme views take the high ground, making calm debate virtually impossible? I hope not.

In the case of both abortion and divorce, we can do without the triumphalistic attitudes, the holier than thou stance. We surely need to approach both subjects in a prayerful manner, inviting the Spirit to influence all people to make the right

decisions. There should be no place for the strident, moralistic approach or for the 'we know what is best for you' patronising technique.



# LETTER

16 Tara Court,  
Glashen Road

Dear Editor,

The Bulletin 418 reports the refusal by Cardinal Cahal Daly to accept the petition made by BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). The petition asks for the Church to reconsider its position on the exclusion of women from the ordained ministry in the Catholic Church.

The Cardinal's refusal reflects the stated position of the Pope that the question is closed, in the negative.

The FOLD of December '94 mentions a call by the Pope for the Church to repent of its past sins in the year 2000.

What about the Church reflecting on its present sins? They're the only ones anything can be done about, and repentance must always be made manifest in action! However, hopefully, by the year 2000, sexism in the Church will be just another PAST sin!

Yours sincerely,  
Madeleine MacNamara



Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit the north side of Model Farm Road this week.

Cursa Gaeilge '95

One week Irish Course for girls and boys, 10-16 years, July 10th to 14th from 10.00 to 1.00 and 2.00 to 4.00. Catering for Fourth to Sixth Class Primary and First to Third year Post Primary. Tuition based on Junior Cert. guidelines. Apply Secretary, Mount Mercy College, 542366.

Foróige

A Youth Organisation which meets every Monday night in the Crypt of the Church at Dennehy's Cross, from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. At present there is one leader, so if anyone over 21 years is interested in working along with teenagers from 12 to 18 years, please come along to the Club night on Monday 8th May at 7.30 p.m.

Christian Meditation

in the C.P. Centre every Thursday 7 p.m. (sharp) to 7.30 p.m. Dom John Main, O.S.B., rediscovered this simple tradition of silent contemplative prayer. When he died over ten years ago there were just three groups. Now there are 1,000 groups in 14 different countries.

The winner of the Easter Colouring Competition was **CILLIAN TWHIG**.

We must congratulate Eoin McCarthy, Emer Fitzgerald, Grace Eiffe, Rachel Courtney and Stephanie Kelly on their beautiful efforts.

**EASTER  
CROSSWORD**

Twenty-seven entries came in for the Easter Crossword of which sixteen were correct. From these we drew for two prizes:

- Ann O'Callaghan,  
Farranlea Grove,  
and
- Mary Lee,  
Merlyn Lawn.

Congratulations to all who completed it and thank you to those who went to the trouble of sending it in.

**SOLUTION**

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Solutions to PUZZLE PAGE next week.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY  
NUMBER**

**088-519940**