



Sunday, November 12th, 1995

No. 441

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Prisoners' Sunday



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEAN HYS CROSS, DORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

The Dean writes

WHAT IS RELIGION FOR?

Last Sunday one of our national newspapers published a survey taken on religious practice. For the most part the results showed a rather depressing downward trend in Faith and practice. It was given on all radio news bulletins on Sunday.

A friend of mine who has lapsed from the Faith seized on this with a certain glee. It reinforced the position he had taken - it helped to quieten his conscience. He cited for me the misdeeds of Christians over the centuries - an impressive catalogue of bigotry, fanaticism, intolerance and corruption. He was glad to shake himself clear of all this. (Aren't we all!! He almost sounds like the Pharisee, "I thank God that I am not like the rest of men"). His problem of course is that these excesses are condemned by everybody, and if they were perpetrated by Christians, they were not following the teaching of Christ in so doing - in fact quite the contrary.

The religion Jesus preached has two impulses:

(1) First of all love God - and

express this love in our love for our neighbour.

(2) We need to gather in worship to live out that double precept of love as we ought.

What is Religion for? To pass on the message of Jesus - the Good News of our Redemption - and to help us walk down the road of life as signposted by the Lord himself.

Denis O'Connor P.P.

Faith begets faith. If I see no faithfulness around me, how can I believe in anything at all? That's one of the reasons we believers gather together at Mass - to borrow faith from each other.

A Reflection

The rose transmits its own scent without a movement. I have a definite feeling that if you want us to experience the aroma of Christianity you must copy the rose. The rose irresistibly draws people to itself and the scent remains with them . . . A rose does not preach. It simply spreads its fragrance.

- Mahatma Gandhi

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

OUR CHILDREN AND DRUGS

Drug abuse can occur in any family. The prospect of a son or daughter becoming involved in drug abuse is frightening. It is important for parents to be informed about drugs today - and to be vigilant - without being over anxious.

Parents need to be aware of the influences on young people and to develop an understanding of adolescence. One of these influences is DRUGS.

Why do young people use drugs?

(1) Curiosity. (2) Influence of friends - peer pressure. (3) To feel grown up. (4) To establish independence. (5) As an expression of rebellion. (6) The desire for pleasure. (7) To escape from reality.

How do you recognise drug taking?

The following symptoms may indicate use: (1) Abnormally sleepy or drowsy. (2) Sudden mood changes. (3) Lack of concentration, memory loss, blackouts, hallucinations. (4) Lack of interest in school, work, old friends and hobbies. (5) Keeping unusually late hours. (6) Secrecy about activities and whereabouts. (7) Telling lies or stealing. (8) New and strange friends. (9) Unusual smells, stains or marks on the body or clothes. (10) Unusual powders, capsules, tablets, syringes or scorched tin-foil.

Remember, because of the nature of adolescence, many of these signs may well be part of the process of growing up. Therefore, it would be unwise to jump to the conclusion that this behaviour is due to drug-taking without considering alternative causes.

Letter to the Editor

Model Farm Road

With Regret Sir,

I did not ask that you accept unsigned letters. Indeed, I would classify unsigned letters or articles under a non-de-plume such as "Luke" as anonymous and not worth printing in an reputable publication or newspaper; this is more so for a parish bulletin.

Please let us have letters and articles only from people who are not afraid to sign their names or reveal their identity.

Thank you.

Jane Quinlan (Mrs)

Editor's Response:

Luke has been a contributor to this bulletin for many years, and his views have always been challenging and sometimes controversial. To dismiss his articles as not worth printing is an insult to the contributor, and to the many parishioners who enjoy the articles. Whether someone chooses to include their name or not is their own choice and if their names were generally known then people may take his views personally. I would rather that Luke would remain unknown and therefore any response to his articles are available for publication rather than the person being personally confronted.





COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

FERTILE FIELD OF ADULT FAITH

I listened to Ann Looney, a catechist, talking on the G.B. Radio Show about the RCIA programme of initiation into the Catholic Faith. Beginning with baptism, where the infant has no real input, she moved on to Eucharist, where the young person first experiences holiness. Finally, she arrived at Confirmation which should copper-fasten the initiation process. Instead, she claimed, it was for many the beginning of the exit process.

At fault, she believes, is our own adult faith formation. For so many of us our faith never progressed beyond the penny

catechism stage! Even here in our own parish we have so many models in adult faith formation going on. Yet in a parish of our size the same faces are seen at almost all of these gatherings - and they're not 'holy Marys' and 'Holy Joes'!!

A member of the recent Late Late Show audience echoed Ann Looney's emphasis on the question of initiation. It all begins with children. But it will lead nowhere if the fertile field of adult faith is absent in the home.

Advent is almost upon us. A time of waiting, a period of preparation. Might it not be a time where we might, all of us, reflect on where we stand as adult Christians? Are we living up to our responsibilities? Or are we content to 'pass the buck' when, if we are truly honest with ourselves, we have been found wanting?

I include myself!!!



We offer our sincere sympathy to GERARD O'HERLIHY, Moyne House, Woodleigh Park, on the death of his brother.

Time is full of eternity. As we use it so shall we be. Every day has its opportunities, every hour its offer of grace.
HENRY E. MANNING.

CONSIDER THIS (A suggestion from a parishioner)

Why can't we make May the month of the Holy Souls? Why not think of our beloved dead in a time of hope, rebirth, brightness, optimism and all that May suggests. An outrageous idea? Tradition can't be changed that easily.

Consider this however. This tradition dates back to an ancient Celtic PAGAN festival when the dead were believed to come back and roam about on the night of Oíche Shamhna. The Church took this over. Interesting, isn't it?



NOTICE BOARD

Bulletins to the Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end.



Pastoral Council

Meeting next Monday 13th at 8 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Aifreann le Gaeilge

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



Immunisation Clinics

Are held at Wilton Park House on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2.00-4.00 p.m. However, due to Christmas holiday break, the clinic for December will be held on Tuesday 19th December, 2.00-4.00p.m.

Charity Auction

At Silversprings Hotel, 2.30-6.00p.m. on Sunday 12 November, organised by Cork Deaf Enterprises.

*NOTE OF
Thanks...*

Thank You

To the residents of Laburnum Lawn who contributed £41.90 to the recent collection for Lavanagh Centre, Ballintemple.

PARISH TEAM

Dean Denis O'Connor, P.P.	542972
Fr. Finbarr Crowley, C.C.	343895
Fr. John Newman, C.C.	541572
Sr. Ursula O'Callaghan	545549

Emergency Number 088-519940

N.B. The emergency number is to be used when you cannot contact the priest at his home.

Readings for Sunday 19 December

Mal.3:19-20 Ps.97.2 Thess.3:7-12.
Luke 21:5-19.