



Sunday March 24th 1996

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Lent

No. 459



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
DENMEYS CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. John writes

on the world, then somewhere
within us the bush
burns. When we are poor
and aware of the inadequacy
of our table, it is to that
uninvited the guest comes.
"Counterpoint."

LENTEN MEDITATIONAL THEMES

Week Five - Injustice

1. *"Woe to those who enact unjust laws and issue oppressive decrees! Woe to those who rob the poor of their rights and deprive my people of justice." (Is. 10:1-2). The choice is ours.*
2. *"If one part suffers, all suffer." (1 Cor.12:26). The tragedy of injustice is that it condemns us all.*
3. *"With the Lord our God there is no injustice." (2 Chron. 19:7). Let us allow the light of God's justice to shine in our world.*
4. *"The wicked do not know what justice means." (Prov.28:5). There are none so blind as those who will not see.*
5. *"The virtuous man is concerned for the rights of the poor." (Prov.29:7). Christian love is the poor's most basic right.*

The editor of a recent edition of *The Tablet* (16/03/1996) writes, "it is time to acknowledge that the unique status of the priest in Irish society together with the vast power of the clerical bureaucracy, and the spiritual infantilism of the laity that inevitably resulted were unnatural, unhealthy and wrong."

It was the expression "the spiritual infantilism of the laity" which caught my attention. I might not fully agree with that opinion, but I can't help thinking that the vast number of people in contemporary Ireland are poorly prepared in "spiritual" matters. Very many people, perhaps most, have never opened a book on a spiritual topic or asked a searching question about their faith since they left secondary school.

It's pointless asking who is to blame. Pointing the finger in one direction or insisting on some form of collective ignorance isn't helpful. More to the point, think of the opportunity and the task facing the contemporary church. Think of the faith enrichment ordinary people can give to one another, if only the church can provide meaningful and sustainable ways of doing it. I keep on trying! In the meantime I find R S Thomas' poem helpful:

When we are weak, we are
strong. When our eyes close



Mrs. Katherine (Kay) Forde, late of the Ridgeway, died last week at East Ferry Nursing Home, where she had been a resident for almost ten years. She had been in declining health for most of that time, and eventually passed away peacefully on 29th February. We extend the sympathy of the community to her daughters Catherine and Jacqui, and sons Denis, John and Bill.

William Kelleher, Mount Carmel, Wilton Road, died peacefully at Cork University Hospital on Monday last, 18th March. Bill, as he was popularly known, was a reserved and gentle person with his own quiet sense of humour. A native of Middleton, he spent all his working life in the banking profession. We extend our sympathy to his wife Nancy, his son David and daughter Fiona. May he rest in peace.



We welcome into our community the following who were baptised recently:

KIEFER BRUTON, 'Edenville', Woodleigh Park, son of Michael and Martina.

CHRISTOPHER AARON FITZGERALD, 73 Leesdale, son of Christopher and Mary.

SEAN DIARMUID HARRINGTON, 'Carrigbeg', Magazine Road, son of Gerard and Aine.

WHY LITURGY?

How often have we heard: "The Mass is boring; it's the same every Sunday; why can't 'they' make it more interesting?" Yet, we refer to the Mass as "the central act of worship of Catholics". So what is the problem?

It says something that our churches are full to capacity for midnight Mass at Christmas and Easter. The fact that our churches are filled for the Good Friday Stations of the Cross and the other Holy Week ceremonies makes a profound statement.

Shouldn't all our liturgies be as meaningful and as relevant, especially our Sunday Eucharist? What can we do to make them so?

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to MARY COLEMAN, Greenfields, on the death of her father.

To SR. DECLAN COTTER, St. Joseph's Convent, on the death of her sister.

To BILL HENNESSY, 22 Wilton Gardens, on the death of his sister, Rev. Mother Gertrude Hennessy, Franciscan Community, Louisiana.

To MARION MURPHY, Leesdale, on the death of her mother, Sheila Mullins.

To LABOURE KELLEHER, Farranlea Park, on the death of her brother, John Walsh.

To the O'LEARY FAMILY, Farranlea Park, and the MULCAHY FAMILY, Tara Court, on the death of their grandfather, John McSweeney, and grandaunt, Madge Drew.



A PARISHIONER WRITES...

16 Tara Court,
Glasheen Road

Dear Editor,

This is not so much a book recommendation as an author recommendation: Dom Helder Camara.

Some books wear well, they become companions. On my shelf I find three very small, short books by him. They were presents from me to my teenage offspring. They've become part of their legacy to me now that they've flown the nest! Two other books also by him have recently been enthusiastically appreciated when recycled as presents to a cousin at the other end of the age spectrum!

The three at hand are: 'Hoping against All Hope', Gill & Macmillan, Dublin 1984, 'The Desert is Fertile', Sheed & Ward, London 1974, 'The Gospel with Dom Helder Camara', Darton, Longman & Todd, London 1986.

In my memory, the characteristics of Dom Helder Camara's Christian vision and practice are: a deep attentive love of truth, a profound desire for justice amongst human beings and in the whole world, in all places where it is needed, and with that in view, a recognition of the value of simplicity, a total respect for the poor, a gentle and firm tenderness for all: poor and rich, a wonderful sense of cosmic praise in acknowledgement of the beauty of God and of God's creation.

Dom Helder Camara is truly an author for our time.

Yours sincerely,
Madelaine MacNamara

COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

AN EMOTIONAL REACTION?

Death is always a tragedy, affecting families and communities in a very personal way. The death of an innocent child is particularly poignant.

The dreadful shooting dead of sixteen innocents and their teacher in Dunblane has touched not just the affected families but the whole community in that beautiful village, as well as communities everywhere.

Our hearts go out to them and we join our prayers with theirs in their grief. Yet, we feel helpless when confronted with a tragedy of this magnitude. We react, if we are to be honest with ourselves, on an emotional level.

Perhaps we might consider reacting in a more practical way to a tragedy of an equally horrific magnitude on our doorsteps? On the streets of our cities and towns we have homeless children who badly need our help. We have an ever-growing number who are dependant on drugs, who are caught up in violent crime. Is it beyond us to respond to their needs, to be of help, to be the good Samaritan, to do more than wring our hands in helpless horror?

Perhaps this could be our tribute to the memory of the awful happening in Dunblane?





North Cathedral Fund

A Grand Concert in aid of the Renovation will be held on Sunday 31st March in Dennehy's Cross Church at 8 p.m. Performers on the night are: The Fleischmann Choir and Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra performing Faure's Requiem & Cesar Frank's Symphony. Soloists are Helen Hassett, Soprano and Gordon Garde, Baritone, and the conductors will be Geoffrey Spratt and Adrian Petcu. Admission £5, family £12, O.A.P. and groups £3. Tickets available in C.P. Centre (mornings).



"Go first and be reconciled"

It's important to ask for forgiveness from the people we have hurt and to then be willing to forgive those who hurt us, too. Jesus said, "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother" (Matthew 5:23-24).

If you know of anybody you have hurt by your thoughts, words or actions, stop reading this now and plan how you can tell that person you are sorry and would like to be friends again. It's not easy but it is the right thing to do. Say a short prayer in your heart before you go so that God's help will be with you.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will continue visitation on Magazine Road/College Road this week.

Prayers of the Faithful

Would readers please collect their rota at the altar rails.

Dunblane Tragedy

Books of Condolence have been opened at the City Hall and Merchant's Quay Shopping Centre.

A Night At The Races

Come and enjoy the thrill of the turf, the thunder of the hoof and the excitement of winning, at Bishopstown G.A.A. Club on Friday 29th March at 8.30p.m. organised by the Mount Mercy Parents Association.

Supper Dance

In Moore's Hotel in aid of Cara House (home for the frail and elderly) on 28th March at 9 p.m. Adm. £5. Music by 'The Circles'. Entire proceeds going to Cara House.



GOOD LUCK

Best wishes to Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh in the Munster Senior Football final this Sunday.

Readings for Sunday March 31

Is.50:4-7.Ps.21.Phil.2:6-11.

Mt.26:14-17:66.

Gospel of the Palms: Mt 21:1-11.

PRIESTS' EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940