



Sunday May 5th 1996

No. 465



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEMNINGS CROSS, CORK

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Easter



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Sr. Ursula writes

Last week a priest from Glasgow celebrated a funeral Mass in our church. During the homily he said that there was no Mass that day in his parish because he was unable to get a priest to supply for him while he was in Cork. That really gave me a jolt. I would have expected it in a third world country, but Glasgow - that was a surprise. He also told us that Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist would lead a para-liturgy each day until he returned.

That piece of information gave new meaning to Fr. John's attempt to focus our minds at the follow-up of the Triduum meeting held in the Crypt on April 16th. You will have read the account in last week's Bulletin I'm sure. Just to refresh memories, he challenged us to plan for a parish with no parish team. What would be required to keep the parish going? Not so far fetched as it might sound at first. If Glasgow today, why not Cork further down the road?

Perhaps we could all reflect on the second reading of today's Mass. St. Peter, speaking to the early Christians says, "You are a chosen race, a sound priesthood,

a people consecrated to God." He spoke not only to the first Christians, but through them to us, giving us responsibility with our priests, not putting all the burden on them. It is our church and our responsibility, just as much as theirs. This is some of what will be discussed at the meeting on Tuesday night next. How do we become a parish of 'living stones', to quote St. Peter. Do we believe it is necessary that we should? If we do, the Crypt will be full! See you there.

MISSION TO RUSSIA

You may recall that last year a young Cork priest was ordained for the Russian Mission - Fr. Philip Andrews. He is working out there now bringing Christianity back to a people who were denied the freedom to practise their religion for two generations.

He badly needs some funds to acquire a small building as a church - and is appealing through some friends here in our Parish for any help we can offer.

Anyone who would like to support this worthy cause could send their contribution to:
Russian Mission,
A/C No. 6664 7499,
Bank of Ireland,
83 South Mall,
Cork

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Returning to the, surely by now, boring, subject of the people who are said to say that they no longer come to Mass because they find it "boring". It is reasonable to presume that when they previously came it was to hear, see, and themselves participate in putting in practice, in a liturgical way, as a people, a message of salvation, literally of "being made safe".

But if, as is still the case, the female half of that people is consistently and deliberately kept out of full participation in the mystery which the words Creation, Incarnation, Redemption try to convey, then neither that half of the people, nor indeed the other half seem to me to be "made safe". Nor maybe to the "bored" people either?

The general use of that word "boredom" could well be a vague, socially acceptable term for describing deep personal feelings of despondent disaffection. It may be expressing a genuine spiritual fatigue, even exhaustion, result of valiant but wasted efforts to reconcile Jesus' message of universal love, (not half universal love), and the liturgical practice of His Church.

Isn't it we who still go to Mass, comfortably unquestioning, closing our eyes, minds and hearts to the signs of the time, who convey to those who leave, this contradictory, confusing, "boring" message? All we, the baptised, are the Church! What do we do about it? What do we do about our absent friends? We cannot change them but we can change ourselves! When do we start?

Your sincerely,
Madelaine MacNamara

Dear Editor,

Madelaine MacNamara's letter (Bulletin 462) makes me sad. She seems to be oblivious to the awesome event which is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, where Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, offers Himself, through the ministry of the priest, as a victim to His Heavenly Father, in atonement for the sins of mankind. How we should humbly adore, praise, love and thank God for the privilege of being chosen, through no merit of our own, to assist at Mass which is truly heaven on earth.

Instead Ms. MacNamara is lost in a fog of whingeing subjectivism and shallow political correctness referring to God as female. God is pure spirit and transcendent and therefore neither male nor female in any earthly sense. Jesus Christ, true God and true man, called, and taught his followers to call God 'Father'. Does Ms MacNamara know better than God Himself how He should be addressed?

The magisterium of the Church has ruled out the ordination of women. I am but one of the majority of Catholic women who have no problem accepting this. Mary the Mother of God was not a priestess. Maybe she, like me, did not have a vocation!

I am tired of disobedient and power hungry feminists jumping up and down like spoilt children demanding ordination. They claim to be Catholics, yet refuse to obey the rules of the Church. They are a fifth column of protesters within the Church who should go away, set up their own sect, 'ordain' themselves, and let obedient Catholics in peace to get on with the serious business of saving their souls.

(Name and address with editor)



EASTER BULLETIN



Twenty-seven entries were submitted for the Easter Crossword of which twenty-two were correct. From these we drew the following names for a prize:

1. Terri O'Donoghue, Laburnum Lawn.
2. Frank Power, 13 Laburnum Lawn.

I.Q. Test Results

The winner of this competition was :
Rosemary Healy,
27, Melbourn Court
Model Farm Road.

The answers to the questions were :

- 1) 14,13
- 2) LET
- 3) 32 clockwise or 8 opposite
- 4) Salome
- 5) New York is not a capital
- 6) 786
- 7) Joan loves Tom
- 8) 5.50
- 9) Fish No. 2
- 10) 4

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to EILEEN KBRINS, Wilton Gardens, on the death of her sister Mary O'Callaghan.

COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

Last weekend Fr. John spoke, in his homily on vocations, about the shepherd and his flock. He suggested that the 'sheep' not be passive but, instead, be active in responding to today's needs.

I was reminded of another role on the laity, this time in the Church of Ireland. Their College of Electors, comprising clergy and lay people, have chosen Bishop Walton Empey as the new Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland. A committed ecumenist and a dedicated pastor, he appears to be a popular choice both in the Church of Ireland and among the other Christian traditions. We pray God's blessing on his work.

Celebrating 50 years in Ireland, more than 5,000 people gathered in Killarney as members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Seven million pounds DAILY is spent on alcohol in Ireland with more and more young people becoming addicted. The good news is that they CAN overcome the addiction with the help of AA. If YOU need help, please phone AA CORK at 500481 between 8.30 and 10.30 p.m. or ask for details at the CP Centre. It could be the beginning of a whole new life.



NOTICE BOARD

WHERE IS THE CHURCH GOING?

We invite you to an open meeting in the Crypt on Tuesday 7th May at 8 p.m. This is a follow-up to the two previous meetings and a special welcome will be given to all who wish to contribute to any concerns in relation to our Church.

Day of Prayer and Reflection

Invitation to St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore, on Sunday May 12th. Tel. 502520 for further information.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will continue visitation on Model Farm Road this week.

The winner of the Easter Teenage Quiz was:

Deirdre O'Callaghan,
Arus Mhuire,
Farranlea Grove.

Answers:

1. Tim Allen
2. Jarvis Cocker
3. Gary & Phil Neville
4. Daniel Defoe
5. Guatemala City
6. Aer Lingus
7. 1973
8. The Pope
9. Bantry Blues
10. Kevin Spacey
11. 4
12. Laune Rangers
13. Genesis
14. Inter
15. Imperial Call
16. Edmund Ignatius Rice
17. Violin
18. Friends

Luke replied:

I must agree with Jane Quinlan that my Easter 'Comment' was gloomy! It was written weeks before Easter, of necessity, before I got into Easter mode.

I also believe the Catholic Church could be in a healthier state and my brief is to report it as I see it.

But it wasn't ALL gloom! I DID use words like 'joy', 'Good News', 'Easter People' and I suggested that we were a lucky people.

I agree entirely with Jane regarding our wonderful Easter celebrations in the Church of the Holy Spirit. What's more, I made sure that our parish team and many others involved in their preparation knew of my appreciation. The occasion was, indeed, memorable.

Monday 6th May

As this is a public holiday, there will be no 7.30 p.m. Mass.

Amnesty International Cork Group
Landmines - A Total Ban. Speaker Tony D'Costa at the Imperial Hotel on Thursday 9th May at 8 p.m. All welcome.

**PRIESTS' EMERGENCY
NUMBER**

088-519940

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