



NOTICE BOARD

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

11-16th June, 1969 all inclusive.
Please note that the contact
number is Noelle at 385700.

St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly collection will take
place at all Masses next weekend.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr Crowley will visit
Victoria Court/Village in the
coming week.

Domestic Violence

Is Anger, Temper or Violence
spoiling your relationship? We
can help. Ring 225678 and ask
for Don or Jean at Cork Marriage
Counselling Centre, 34 Paul
Street.

Bishopstown G.A.A.

The Annual General Meeting of the
under age section will take place
in the club on Wednesday next
29th January at 8 p.m. We cater
for over 300 young people in our
area.

If you would be willing to
help us in our work please come
along. All welcome!

V.E.C. Art Classes

For Seniors will commence on
Thursday 30th January at 2.30
p.m. in the Crypt.

REGISTRATION

For new pupils for St.
Catherine's N.S. will take place
all next week.

Readings for Sunday 2 February

Mal. 3:1-4. Ps. 23. Heb. 2:14-18.
Lk. 2:22-40.



The living Spirit

Church Unity Week ended
officially on Saturday, 29th
January. In the year ahead let us
continue to pray for unity among
all people.

O God, we are one with you.
You have made us one with you.
You have taught us that if we are
open to one another, you dwell in
us.

Help us to preserve this openness
and to fight for it with all our
hearts.
Help us to realize that there can
be no understanding where there
is mutual rejection.

O God, in accepting one another
wholeheartedly, fully,
completely, we accept you, and we
thank you, and we adore you;
and we love you with our whole
being,
because our being is in your
being,
our spirit is rooted in your
Spirit.

Fill us then with love,
and let us be bound together with
love as we go our diverse ways,
united in this one Spirit which
makes you present to the world,
and which makes you witness to
the ultimate reality that is
love.

Thomas Merton

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940



Sunday 26th January 1997

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 484



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BALLINEASPAIG CO. DU



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Finbarr writes

that many people can relate to
when it comes to Sunday worship.
It has put me thinking!

COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

GOD AND CAESAR

We live, as the media constantly
remind us, in a pluralistic
society. The Church is forever
being warned of the dangers of
'interfering' in the political
process. It is so often
overlooked that, for years, the
State has been more than happy to
have 'The Church' - and we are
all 'The Church' - relieve it of
its responsibilities in the areas
of health, education and social
deprivation.

We can, because of our island
nature, believe that this is
unique to Ireland. Not so. I
have been reading a publication
of the Catholic Bishops'
Conference of England and Wales.
It is called "The Common Good and
the Catholic Church's Social
Teaching", with a foreword by
Basil Hume, Cardinal Archbishop
of Westminster. In it he points
out that although the primary
duty of bishops is "to point
people in the direction of
Church", but "the deepening of

Recently I celebrated Mass with a
small group of young adults.
Talking about the celebration
afterwards, they pointed out to
me that much of the language used
in the Mass wasn't part of their
everyday vernacular. So I asked
them had they any suggestions.

One of the main points they
made to me was the prayers, such
as the opening prayer, the prayer
after the offertory and communion
- these so often just passed them
by. One of the reasons for that
was that often they just arrived
on time for Mass without any
preparation, and at the end of
Mass their minds were fixed on
just getting out and going home.

They relished the opportunity
to reflect and share their
prayers together during the small
group Mass, but found it so hard
to transfer it into a much larger
community worship. They said to
me they find it hard to relate
their Sunday worship with
everyday living, mainly because
it's something they felt they had
to do and get it over with,
unlike the intimate celebration
that we had experienced together.

I'm not passing judgement on
what they shared with me, but I
feel what they said was something

the spiritual life must go hand in hand with practical concern for our neighbour, and thus with social action."

The Church, he says, has the duty to protest when human dignity is threatened and to denounce any abuse of economic power, especially if too little priority is being given to tackling poverty, ill-health, poor housing and other social ills. "The future of humanity" Cardinal Hume claims, "... starts with a true conversion of mind and heart."

It is well for the State, and indeed for all of us, to remember the great work being done by the Church, clerical, religious and lay. This work has often gone on quietly and without fuss. It still goes on and, despite some well-publicised negative aspects of it, the work continues and it is good that it does.



Rest in Peace

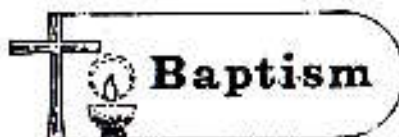
We pray for the late Richard (Dick) Hurley of 3 Avondale, Mndel Farm Road. Dick, who was a native of Cross's Green, came to live with his son Jerry and family fourteen months ago after his wife died. He was a proud Cork city man and supporter of St. Finbarr's Hurling & Football Club. Two of the things he looked forward to daily were the Mass and the Rosary which are broadcast from University Hospital. To his sons Jerry and David and all his family we offer our prayers and sympathy.



In Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to MARLENE BUCKLEY, Bishopscourt Road, on the death of her brother Neil O'Flynn.

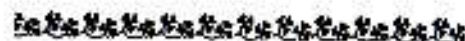
To SR. IMMACULATA HEGARTY, St. Catherine's Convent, Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of her brother.



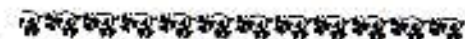
Baptism

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

- Peter John Hyde
- Graham Richard Smithers
- Sinead Walsh
- Jack Denis Cronin
- Robert John Coffey
- Gillian Mary Burke
- Daniel Jeremiah Timothy Meaney
- Muireann Bridie Rita Lynch
- Jennifer Denise O'Sullivan
- Marc Bowen
- Rachel Elizabeth Therese Feeney
- Jack Bernard Connor Milne
- Clodagh Delia Cronin.



Bibles that are falling apart are usually read by people that aren't.



St. Brigid

Patroness of Ireland

St. Brigid's feastday falls on February 1st each year and although she is the patroness of Ireland, her feastday passes without much ceremony or celebration.

St. Patrick's Day, in total contrast, is celebrated not alone in Ireland by magnificent parades and a public holiday in his honour, but also in many countries throughout the world. Those feminists among us may well be annoyed at the disparity in celebrating the feastdays of our patron and patroness. Yet even if today St. Brigid makes little impression in our lives, this was not so in the time of our ancestors.

GENEROUS

St. Brigid was born in Faughart in Co. Louth about ten years before the death of St. Patrick. She was the daughter of a chieftain and a slave woman who worked for the household. Brigid worked for her father's household and tended to his flocks and herds. She was so kind and generous towards the poor that her father brought her as a slave to the King of Leinster. While Brigid waited in her father's chariot to be brought before the king, a leper approached begging for alms and she gave him her father's sword - the only thing she could find in the chariot.

FIRST CONVENT

Brigid later founded her first convent on her father's land, having finally convinced him to allow her to become a nun. Later she built her most famous convent in Kildare and it grew rapidly in fame and size. An entire village grew up around the convent and a monastery was also built. Being an abbess of a convent was a very high ranking position and carried enormous responsibilities with it. Shelter, alms, food and hospitality had to be provided for all who needed it.

ST. BRIGID'S CROSS

King and Chieftains would ask the advice of the abbess in political as well as religious affairs. That one woman could hold such power seems extraordinary to us today where the church seems such a male dominated establishment. However, Brigid performed her duties admirably and held the love and respect of all. Her acceptance of those who did not share her religion is also of note. While tending to a dying chieftain who was a pagan he asked her to tell him about the Jews she loved. Brigid wove a cross out of rushes which lay on the floor, to explain about Jesus and how He had died

for our sins. To this day the 'St. Brigid's Cross' of rushes hangs in many homes. It seems such a shame that someone so holy and important to our ancestors should have such little importance for us today. St. Brigid was a shining example to our ancestors of kindness, hospitality, friendship and openness. What a pity it is that we do not follow those virtues in the same degree today.

'BIDDY BOYS'

In certain rural areas still the 'Biddy Boys' gather on St. Brigid's night. They dress themselves in straw hats and skirts and visit the houses in the village. Long ago, a house dance would be held on St. Brigid's night and the 'Biddy Boys' would go there. In other areas, farmers bless the land and animals with holy water asking for St. Brigid's blessing on her feastday.

Certain traditions pertaining to St. Brigid are obviously maintained in certain rural areas, but even these are slowly dying. Apart from being mentioned in schools to the schoolchildren, does St. Brigid hold any importance for most of us?

