



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

No. 496



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENHENTY CHURCH, CO. DK.

Sunday 9th February 1997



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring love....

Lord, may I seek to love rather than be loved.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we ourselves are pardoned.

This beautiful prayer of St. Francis strikes a chord in our hearts. Perhaps we haven't lived it as fully as we know we should. Well, this is Lent - and Lent means Spring - and Spring means new life and new beginnings.

There is an ever increasing longing among us to choose the easy options in life - eat, drink and be merry, tomorrow can take care of itself, enjoy now and pay later.

Some of this may be foolishness rather than directly harmful. But such an attitude suggests that selfishness is the road to happiness, and comfort rather than God is our fulfilment. Millions have travelled that road before us - to find there is only emptiness

and loneliness at the end.

"Lord, may I seek to love rather than be loved." The decision to choose Jesus rather than the comfort option calls for generosity of spirit. Yet, it is in giving that we receive - in this case we receive a deepening peace which comes to all who throw in our lot with Jesus.

Now is a good time to do something beautiful for God, like attending daily Mass, taking on family prayer, putting the savings from luxuries into the Trocaire box, joining meals-on-wheels or Vincent de Paul. "He who gives to the poor leads to the Lord". If you are satisfied with the security put down the cash.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday 12th February is Ash Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence.

Masses at 7.30, 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30pm.

There will be distribution of ashes at all Masses.



The Legend of Saint Valentine

According to legend, the Valentine takes its name from a young Christian priest who lived in ancient Rome. Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine had been imprisoned because of his faith . . . Often and longingly he thought of his loved ones and wanted to assure them of his well-being and of his love for them . . . Beyond his cell window, just within reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some of the heartshaped leaves and pricked them with the words, "Remember your Valentine," and sent them off by a friendly dove . . . On the next day, and the next, he sent more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the Valentine have its beginning. And so it has been through the ages . . . those who love, remember . . . and send Valentines to express their love.



Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to JIM BOWEN, Kenley Drive, on the death of his sister.

We pray for the late Michael O'Leary and we offer our sympathy to his wife Carmel and family, Orchard Grove.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to CIARA HEALY, Kenley Crescent, on winning the All Ireland U-19 Squash.

Congratulations to EDDIE and TERESA O'CONNOR, Lima Lawn, on celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary last week-end.



AMENITY WALK ON MODEL FARM ROAD

The proposal by Cork Corporation to close off the entrance at the Model Farm is causing anger and amazement locally. To close off rather than improve and make easier access available defies logic. Because of the hilly nature of this amenity overlooking Currabeen River, older people who might need an easier walk would be no longer able to use this lovely amenity area. It will therefore go into decay. Residents were expecting the Corporation to have a similar view, hence the anger at the totally illogical proposal to supply an amenity and then partially close it.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

AN EXTRAORDINARY LOGIC

The Gallagher brothers of pop group Oasis fame have been in the news recently in connection with drugs. One of them was charged with possession. When he was left off with a caution, there was a public outcry. The answer given by the police was that he was treated like any other citizen, not like a celebrity, and given another chance.

Meanwhile his brother, Noel, has called for the legalisation of drugs. Many British politicians, including the Home Secretary Michael Howard, have come down on him for suggesting that drug use is acceptable.

Predictably, others have joined in the chorus to have drugs legalised, including singer

Belinda Carlisle. Less predictably, they have been joined by ex-British judge James Pickles who claimed that it was inevitable that drugs, including heroin, would be legalised because Noel Gallagher is right in claiming that "the taking of drugs is widespread and the attempts to suppress them are counter-productive".

What an extraordinary logic! Sadly, these idols of our young people wield a phenomenal influence in today's world. Unfortunately, they do not possess the degree of responsibility to match this magnetism. There is a great need for people with similar charismatic appeal to speak out in order to counter this damaging talk. If the 'stars' of the pop culture are hell bent on destroying themselves through the abuse of drugs, there can be little logic in expecting their fans to follow them on that frightening road.

SPRINGTIME SOWING

In the Spring of each year, young people fill out their college application forms. It is also a time when people consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life. Please pray for all those who are considering their future. Pray too that more young men may consider being a priest in the Dioceses of Cork & Ross.

Your support for people and programmes promoting vocations in the Dioceses of Cork & Ross is also important and appreciated.

There Are Hundreds of Way to Give
And there's one that can make all the difference.

This is your personal invitation to attend one of two LIFE OPTIONS DAYS being organised by the dioceses of Cork & Ross. (If you come, it doesn't tie you to anything! And you will not be getting letters about it, unless you want them.)

(1) Sat. 8th March at Farranferris College.

(2) Sat. 22nd March at Myross Wood Centre in Leap, near Skibbereen.

For information please contact one of the priests of the parish.



Visitation

Fr. Finbarr Crowley will continue visitation at Rossbrook this week.

Attention Please

In the interests of good order you are respectfully requested that only communicants coming up centre aisle should approach the two ministers at centre break - all others kindly approach ministers at altar rails. This applies at 10.30 and 12.15 Masses.



Lectio Divina

What's that? Well, it's a way of praying from the Bible. Why not come and join us in the Crypt - Tuesdays 18th/25th February, and 4th March - at 8 p.m. Please drop your name in box in Church - pencil and paper supplied.



more
fervent in
PRAYER

Taize Prayer

"Dochas" Community invites young adults to an evening of Taize Prayer on Monday 10 February at 8pm at 19 Montfort Park, Mardyke. "Stay here and keep watch with me".



National Song Contest for Peace

Now booking at Everyman Palace, Sunday 2nd March at 8 p.m. Special guests: Billa O'Connell and Johnny McEvoy. Adm. £5. Official opening by American Ambassador, Mrs. Jean Kennedy Smith.

Adoration for Peace

At Poor Clare Chapel each Wednesday, all day. All welcome.

Temperance Sunday

This Sunday 9th is a special day of Prayer for Temperance.

LENT

Masses:

Mon-Fri: 9, 10, 7.30pm.

Half-Hour Adoration:

Thursdays 7-7.30pm.

N.B. Please note change of time.

Sunday Devotions: 5.30pm.

Readings for Next Sunday

The readings for Sunday February 16th, the first Sunday of Lent are: Genesis 9:8-15, Psalm 24, 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:12-15

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940