



Sunday 16th March 1997

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent

No. 501



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DORK.

ST. PATRICK

Few pastors have left as indelible a mark on their flock as did St. Patrick on us Irish. Even the very land itself gives tangible evidence of the legacy he has left us of prayer and penance - places of austere pilgrimage like Croagh Patrick and Lough Derg, as well as Holy Wells and place-names. His spirituality is embedded in the very nature of our country.

Patrick was a humble man, very conscious of his own need of transformation into Christ. The practice of Confession and of having an "anamchara" (soul friend) is characteristic of the Irish Church in the history of Christianity.

The Trinity also distinguishes

his witness - Father, Creator, The Word, Jesus always present in his living. With Paul he could say, "Christ is my life", and the Holy Spirit, a fire within, source of love and power and inspiration, giving birth to all his works. He realised the importance of the written word as a legacy to his successors, and we treasure his "Confessions", his "Breastplace" and the "Letter to Coroticus". His written dictum, "We ourselves are the letter of salvation even to the end of the earth."

How true of the Irish people, the flowers of his sowing, throughout the whole world.

Compiled by
Sr. Madeleine Lucey,
St. Joseph's Convent

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

In today's world, even this heading alone is likely to put people off, isn't it? It smacks of doom and gloom at a time in the Church's year when we are about to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, no less.

In our Penitential Service on 25th March we will attempt to capture, in liturgy, the meaning of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The emphasis will be on celebrating, in community, God's love and forgiveness for all who worship in our parish.

It will give us an opportunity to prayerfully repent of all our shortcomings in the sure knowledge that we can then be reconciled with God. The aim will be to create an atmosphere where we can celebrate both repentance AND reconciliation.

You are invited to participate in our Penitential Service at 7.30pm, on Tuesday, March 25th. The Celebration will be conducted by Fr. Pat O'Donoghue SSC, whom you will remember from our Triduum, and priests from neighbouring parishes will be present, as well as our own priests.

PEACE MOTTO



"Peace Begins With Me"

The 1997 Mass for Peace & Reconciliation took place in St. Augustine's Church, filled to capacity, on Sunday March 2nd. Chief Concelebrant was Bishop John Buckley, assisted by our Dean and Fr. Neal Carlin of Derry.

For the third year, composer John Gibson's beautiful Mass was sung by our own choir, together with the children's choir from St. Vincents. Conductor was Pat Killeen, with organist Colin Nicholls.

Fr. Neal Carlin, founder of Columba House, the Prayer & Reconciliation Centre in Derry, preached on the great need for peace in Northern Ireland, based on forgiveness and reconciliation. He stressed the urgent necessity for putting life back into 'the paralysed body politic'.

Speaking on the need for healing, he drew the parallel between the work carried out by the representatives of the four main Christian Churches involved in Columba House and the men who left down the paralytic through the roof tiles so that Jesus could heal him. Desperate situations need fresh thinking.

At the conclusion of the Mass, two young people, one each from a Church of Ireland and Catholic background, gave witness to the wrongs done by members of their respective churches and asked for forgiveness. It was a thought-provoking and challenging end to a very beautiful liturgy. I'm sure the Lord heard and was pleased.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The organising committee for the service for the Women's World Day of Prayer wish to thank most sincerely everyone who helped to make the service so meaningful and successful, and the Friendship Club members for their invaluable assistance. Thank you!

Lectio Divina

A group will meet in the C.P. Centre fortnightly, commencing Tuesday next 18th, at 8.30pm. Anybody who wishes to continue with Lectio Divina is most welcome to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh on winning the Munster Senior Schools' Soccer Cup, defeating C.B.S. Youghal 1-0. Parishioners on the team are Kieran O'Mahony, James O'Sullivan, Kevin Long and Kevin O'Riordan.

Congratulations also to parishioner **BRIAN BURKE**, Farranlea Grove, who has been awarded the Examiner 1996 Junior Soccer Sports Star Award. Brian captained the Irish Schoolboys' Soccer Team who were unbeaten this season. He is a former member of the U.C.C. Soccer School of Excellence and played with the Munster Schools XI who won the Interprovincial Schools Youth championship. Brian is a Leaving Cert. pupil at Presentation Brothers and plays club soccer with Wilton F.C. Well done, Brian!



COMMENT

by "LUKE"

GLORIOUS SAINT PATRICK

While many myths and legends have grown up around Patrick, the man and the saint, we know little enough about him. Even the beautiful poem/hymn "Deer's Cry", better known as "Patrick's Breastplate", is believed by modern scholars to come from the late 7th or early 8th century. So what do we really know about St. Patrick?

We get an insight into the man through the only writings of his still existing: the Confessio or Confession of St. Patrick, and his Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus. In the Confessio we read of his gratitude to God for his ministry, an account of his labours and, in places, his frustration at some of his setbacks. In his Letter to Coroticus, a Welsh chieftain and his soldiers, we meet an angry Patrick, furious at Coroticus' treatment of some of Patrick's new converts.

What little scholars have gleaned of the saint's life portrays a man who brought Christianity and scholarship to the pagan Irish, who laboured against all the odds to fulfil his calling - and who would not recognise himself in the statues and illustrations of him that we are all familiar with.

We don't need the myths and the legends. The life's work of this great man lives on today although we don't always appreciate it. Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day on 17th March and PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T use that offensive Paddy's Day term!

Mass for Sick and Elderly

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 22nd March at 3.00pm. in the Crypt. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during the Mass.

Could Contact people please ensure that transport is available where required.

As always, the organisers are dependent on the wonderful response from Contact people and parishioners who supply sandwiches and cakes to ensure that those who attend the Mass enjoy the social aspect afterwards.



We pray for the late Mary Ployd of Bishops Court Road, who died recently. Mary had been cared for by the Sisters of Bon Sauveur, Carriglee, Dungarvan, since her childhood. Despite her long years of illness and being cared for by the Sisters and staff, her loss as a daughter and sister leaves a deep sadness and absence in their lives. To ita her mother, brothers and sisters, we offer our sympathy and prayers.

We offer our sincere sympathy to EUGENE McCONVILLE, Mount Eden, Model Farm Road, on the death of his father.

To DAN COUGHLAN, 11 The Grove, Orchard Road, on the death of his father.

To MARY TOBIN, Laburnum Park, on the death of her brother.

To SEAMUS KELLY, Laburnum Park, on the death of his mother.



Easter Ceremonies

Next week's Bulletin will contain all the times of ceremonies, confessions, etc. Be sure to collect your copy.

Altar Servers

Please note that all servers should attend on Palm Sunday as follows:

Group 1 & 2: 6.15 Mass (Saturday)

Group 3 & 4: 9.00 Mass.

Group 5 & 6: 10.30 Mass.

Group 7 & 8: 12.15 Mass.

Please collect your new rotas in the Sacristy.

Ministers of the Word

A meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th at 8.00pm. in the Crypt.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Don't forget to book your place, £60 deposit. Phone Noelle at 385700.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr Crowley will continue visitation at Wilton Avenue/Bishopscourt/Merlyn Lawn during the coming week.

P.T.A.A. A Message for all Pioneers

The Annual Diocesan Pioneer Mass will take place on Friday 21st March at 8.30pm. in the Church of the Incarnation, Frankfield. Pioneers from all centres are invited to attend. Guest speaker at the Mass will be Fr. Kevin McNamara, M.S.C.

Pioneers of 25 or 50 years who would like to have silver or gold pins presented to them at this Mass should contact the Secretary of the local centre before Wednesday 19th. Phone. 345281.

Bishopstown Gramophone Circle

Our monthly recital will take place on Wednesday next, March 19th, at 3pm. in the Crypt of our Church at Dennehy's Cross. Guest presenter will be Mairead Daly.

St. Patrick's Day

Holyday of Obligation. Masses as follows:

No Vigil Mass on Sunday evening.

Monday: 9, 10.30, 12.15, 7.30pm.

Shamrock will be blessed at all Masses and distributed to some members of the congregation immediately after this blessing. We are, as always, most grateful to the ever-faithful Brendan Linehan for the supply of shamrock. Brendan assures us that the 1997 crop is in excellent condition.

Poor Clare Monastery

On St. Patrick's Day, first Mass will be at 8.00am.

Easter Dues

Envelopes will be distributed this week.

Cake Sale

Reminder of our choir's cake sale in the Crypt after the 9, 10.30 and 12.15 Masses this week-end.

Youth Quiz

Thanks to all those who took part in the Youth Quiz which took place in February. It was a great success and we hope to hold another in the future.

Deaf Enterprises

Have your furniture professionally upholstered and french polished and help create employment for the deaf people of Cork City and County. Contact 2a Sundrive Park, Ballinlough Road, tel. 294111 or 294100.

Hurling Coaching

Will start at the G.A.A. Grounds on Saturday 22nd March, 10.30-12.00 noon. New members welcome.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940