



# Ballineaspig Bulletin

Sunday 20th April 1997



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



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

This the 4th Sunday of Easter is Vocations Sunday worldwide. The drastic fall-off in numbers entering the Priesthood and Religious life is well documented. The reasons for this are examined, not only in religious magazines, but also in the secular press and radio. Fr. Tony Flannery, well known to the people of this Parish, suggests that Religious Congregations such as his own, should cease to take in the few young people who would join. Perhaps he is right, I don't know, neither do most people, nor I fear, do they care. That's the really worrying thing.

The following is a quote from lines written by Pastor Niemoeller, a victim of the Holocaust in World War II.

"First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out - because I was not a Communist.

Next they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me."

I am not too clear about the exact relevance of the quotation - but I feel it has a message - a very strong message - the thing does not affect me personally, so I don't care.

I had a close brush with death over two years ago. I can honestly state that the greatest comfort and reassurance I received at the time was to have the hand of a priest raised over me in absolution, and the holy anointing of the sacrament of the sick.

If we really need priests there isn't much point in writing lots of books about the problem or trying to evaluate the causes.

The Lord himself put the whole matter very succinctly, as only he could - "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest."

*Dean O'Connor*

### A VOCATION VIEW 1.

Jesus cleaned out the temple of moneychangers. He was angry; he was zealous; he was authoritative. He was doing what he had to do, even though it involved risk, danger, insult, and wonder. Such is a vocation.

### A VOCATION VIEW 2

No one is humanly worthy to be a priest, deacon, sister, or brother. No one is worthy to stoop and untie the sandal straps of Jesus. But he still calls us and favors us to do his work. Will you serve?

**EASTER I.Q. TEST**

The winner of the I.Q. test is Donagh Healy, 27 Melbourn Court, Model Farm Road.

**EASTER TEENAGE QUIZ**

The winner of the Teenage quiz is Peter O'Leary, 19 The Manor, Model Farm Road.

**EASTER CROSSWORD**



There were 28 entries to the Easter crossword. 12 were all correct. From these we drew the following for a prize:

- 1) Lily Casey, 'Sarto', Bendemeer Park.
- 2) O'Neill Family, 5 Court Cairn, Model Farm Road.

**Requiescat  
in Pace**



Noreen McCarthy, Bishopstown Avenue, died at Cork University Hospital on Tuesday last, 15th April. Noreen was the kind of person St. Peter would have referred to as specially precious to God "who will always favour the humble". She was predeceased by her husband Michael, and her only concern was for her family and their welfare. To these - Elma, Nuala, Cora, Don and Noel, her sister Peig, her grandchildren and friends we extend sincere sympathy at their loss.

**IN SYMPATHY**

We offer our sincere sympathy to MARY McGUINNESS, The Manor, Model Farm Road, on the death of her mother.

Extract from the April "Readers Digest":

"If ever I want proof of the existence of God, not just of an unfathomable universe, but of all small things in it, I examine the design, colour and texture of a single daffodil bell. There is divinity in that quintessential flower of... Spring."



## COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

### "COME FOLLOW ME"

The "Vocations' Crisis" is back in the public arena again, partly in response to Fr. Tony Flannery's challenging new book. Recent issues of THE FOLD and REALITY have also carried articles on the subject.

The reasons for this "crisis" appear to be many. Firstly, our changing attitudes favour money and success in life rather than vocation. Church-related scandals also feature highly. Celibacy, too, is a stumbling block.

Gerard Moloney, editor of REALITY, claims that "the Church has not been very good at promoting itself or its message.

It still isn't. It can appear cold and uncompassionate in its teachings and in its practices." He goes on to suggest that "the problem is not a lack of potential recruits" but that "the product on offer... .. is no longer attractive to them."

It has been suggested to me recently that for every vocation "lost" to the religious life, as we have understood it, there has been a corresponding "gain" by associations such as L'Arche and Simon and by the N.G.O's like Trocaire, Concern and Goal. It seems to me a very credible case. Who is to say that those who choose to follow this route are not answering the call to "Come, follow me" just as well as those who choose to follow the more traditional, but less trodden, route?

There is still a rich harvest. The workers are as willing as ever. The methods have changed. God is still in charge. We have nothing to fear.



*Henceforth you will be catching men*



**Easter Dues**

Thank you to all who contributed to the Easter Dues, and a special word of thanks to our Collectors.

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament**

On First Friday, 2nd May, from 10.30am to 7.30pm.

We pray in a special way at this time for the children of the parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

**Afternoon Prayer & Benediction**

At St. Benedict's Priory, Cobh, Sundays at 3.30pm. The Bible Garden, monastic heritage, oasis tea room and craft shop are open Sundays 3-6pm, weekdays 10.30am-6.00pm.

**PARISH TEAM**

Dean Denis O'Connor, P.P. 42972  
Fr Finbarr Crowley, C.C. 343895  
Sr. Ursula O'Callaghan 545549  
Priest in Residence: Fr. Denis O'Leary

**Emergency Number 088-519940**

*To be used when you cannot contact the priest at his home.*

**National Council for the Blind**

Charity Bridge night to be held in Jurys Hotel on Sunday 20th April, at 7.15pm. Sub. £5. Prizes galore. Please help this worthy cause.

**Support Your Local Charity**

Wanted household items, clothes, furniture, etc. If possible drop items into the St. Vincent de Paul shop at Nano's, Gerald Griffin Street, or phone 300799.



**Baile'n Easpaig Gramophone Circle**

The monthly recital will take place in the Crypt of our church at Dennehy's Cross on Wednesday next, April 23rd, at 3.00pm sharp, when Mary McDonogh will give the recital. Everybody is welcome to this our second last recital for the season.

**Readings for Sunday 27 April**

Acts 9:26-31. Ps.21. 1 Jn.3:18-24. Jn.15:1-8.

**MASS TIMES**

Monday-Friday: 9.00, 10.00.  
Saturday: 9.00, 10.00, 6.15pm.  
Sunday: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15pm.