

Sunday 4th May 1997



# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Easter



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNISHY CROSS, CORK

No. 508



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*Fr. Finbar writes*

## BAPTISED PERSONS - RECEIVERS AND PROCLAIMERS OF GOOD NEWS

Throughout the sacrament of Baptism, many different symbols are used to highlight the new life the child is receiving: the sign of the cross, oil of catechumens, water, chrism oil, candle, white robe, the blessing of the ears and the mouth, and the blessing of the parents.

The following is the prayer over the ears and the mouth, which is also called the Ephphetha:

"The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father, Amen."

Why do we say and ask God's blessing in the above prayer? We ask God's blessing of 'Good News' to be part of the child's life. We pray that all that the child will hear and speak will be good news.

Good news can be such a rare event if we listen to the news and read the papers. The balance between good and bad news is rarely even. So much of what we

hear and read favours the bad.

My experience in meeting people is the opposite. Most people speak well of others, and also are obviously overjoyed when good news comes their way.

We as baptised persons have an obligation to be proclaimers and receivers of good news. At a Baptism ceremony, I often feel, as I say this prayer, that all parents are willing that the prayers will become a reality for the child.

I invite you to try to make it a reality for each of us; what a difference in our lives if we "spoke no evil, or heard no evil."

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## The Fold

Spring is a key theme in the May issue. There's been a lot of pessimistic comment about the future of the Church and some of its institutions. A series of articles sees the emergence of new life, new commitment and new forms of ministry. They make worthwhile reading.

We visit the parish of Curraheen. Fr. Bernard Cotter gives us an insight into parish life in this "third parish in Chicago".

The Prior of Lough Derg explains the lore and spirit of the Donegal place of pilgrimage. Plus, lots more!!

## Letters to the Editor

Caretaker's House,  
Waterworks,  
Lee Road

Dear Editor,

I am concerned at the lack of real debate given to the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme currently being imposed upon Primary and Second level schools. Many parents have severe misgivings about this, fearing that our Catholic schools are being commandeered, in effect, to instil in our young a blasé attitude towards 'right' and 'wrong', and sexuality in particular.

The following are an example of some fears and questions which are not being aired:

1. Why are parents being largely kept in the dark about the explicit nature of materials recommended as resources for teaching the RSE programme?
2. Why is it that the most ardent and vociferous advocates of these programmes have expressed a great hostility towards Catholic moral positions?
3. Are children going to be adversely affected, having sinful and disordered behaviours presented as normal and socially acceptable?
4. Why is the Minister using financial coercion to ensure that these programmes are given in full, despite the fact that their contents clearly violate the ethos of almost every school in the country?

I believe it is time that we make a stand on this matter by doing everything in our power to disassociate our schools from its influence. If sufficient schools do so, then the Minister will be

left with no alternative but to back down and tolerate the ethos of schools as she finds them.

Yours faithfully,  
Gearoid Duffy

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Bishopstown Ave.

Why should I go to Confession?

1. Confession is said to be gone out - we don't do anything wrong. Since when is a Sacrament "gone out"? We all have done wrong surely.
2. The Sacrament of Penance is as good in its own way as Marriage, Holy Orders, etc.
3. This Sacrament can be received frequently, we can avail of its help and graces many times in the year!
4. God is our loving Father and the Best Friend we have.
5. We are telling God (through the Priest) our failings and wrongdoings because we need forgiveness, and graces to improve, otherwise we carry guilt around with us - a heavy load!
6. Few can carry on in this life with serenity, without the grace and assistance of this great Sacrament of Forgiveness and Renewal.

Name and address with the editor.

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## IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to AIDAN DOYLE, Woodlawn, Model Farm Road, on the death of his mother. To GEORGE McSWENEY, The Ridgeway, Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of his sister Dr. Kay Neville in Manchester.



# COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

## DO WE ENGAGE IN THE PERENNIAL SPORT OF SEEING THE MIGHTY PULLED DOWN?

Do you sometimes wonder, as I do, why we read pages and pages (well, we dip into them anyway!) in the print media on issues like the Dunnes' Payment to Politicians Tribunal? Do you, like me, ask yourself: why am I watching these endless programmes on radio and television on the same subject? And have you, unlike me, come up with the answer?

There is an ambivalence in one's mind about the matter where the answer should be clear-cut. Justice should not only be done but must be seen to be done.

Isn't that how it goes? So, the question is: do we read all this material and watch all these programmes to ensure that, a) justice is done and, b) we witness justice being done? I somehow doubt it.

So, do we engage in the perennial sport of seeing the mighty pulled down? Is this our reason for all the reading, all the viewing. Closer to the truth, perhaps?

Or do we see this expensive exercise in seeking the truth (?) as so much entertainment? And if blood is spilled along the way, well so much the better. The 'Tiger Economy' is unstoppable and, sure, what's a few million here and there when there's so much fun to be had.

Whatever the answer to my question, why do we read, why do we watch, let us hope that lessons might be learnt from all of this. Democracy is a tender plant. It is worth nourishing and cherishing. I fear it has been neglected.



## *Rest in Peace*

We pray for the late Jack McCarthy, Bishopstown Park, who died during the week. Despite his age and frailty his mind was active up to the time of his death. Jack was a most matter of fact man, always enjoying meeting people and his "social outings" in his latter years. He was cared for by his daughter Claire and family. To his son, daughters, grandchildren and all who cared for him we offer our prayers and sympathy.

We pray for the late Alex Garvey of Sheares Park, who died recently. Alex had not been well for the past number of months. He was well known to many people, as he was one of the founder members of the Bishopstown Credit Union, which worked out of the crypt in the early years. We all know how it has grown since, thanks to the hard work that people like Alex gave to the community. His Requiem Mass was celebrated in the S.M.A. Wilton where Alex was a collector. He was pre-deceased by his wife Ann in December 1995. To his family we offer our prayers and sympathy.



## Announcements

### TAKE NOTE:

#### The Feast of the Ascension

Will be celebrated this year on Sunday 11th May. This means that Thursday 8th will not be a Holyday of Obligation.

#### New Ministers of the Eucharist

Training will commence next Thursday, 8th May, at 7.30pm in the Crypt.

#### Special Notice for Ministers of the Eucharist Past and Present

The Chaplains at Cork University Hospital would like help to bring Holy Communion to patients in the wards.

Could you spare an hour, 11.00am - 12.00 noon, once a week? If so, please give name and address to Anne at C.P. Centre, or any of the priests.

### THANK YOU

#### Senior Choir

The members would like to thank all those who supported their recent coffee morning. We hope to do you proud in France.

A special word of thanks to The Rendezvous, McCarthy's Shop and Roches Stores.



#### Cúrsa Caeille '97

One week Irish Course at Mount Mercy College for girls and boys, 10-16 years, June 30-July 4, 10.00am - 3.30pm. Catering for Fourth to Sixth Class Primary and 1st to 3rd year Post Primary. Seisiúin teagaisc, Drámaíocht, Ceilf. Apply to School Secretary, tel. 542366 (9.30am to 4pm).

#### CATHEDRAL SUNDAY OPENING

The recently refurbished Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Anne (The North Cathedral, Cork) is open all Sunday afternoon. It is open for a visit or quiet prayer until 6 p.m. on Sundays.

If you are out for a drive or a walk, you are welcome to step in to the "mother church" of the Dioceses.

#### LINK TO CATHEDRAL FOR FAMILIES

The Cathedral has a special place in the life of the local church. Now families and individuals can be linked to it in a special way. And the link will endure.

You are invited to sponsor part of the refurbishment of the Cathedral. For example, you can donate £5 and have your name linked to one of the new slates, in the Cathedral archives.

Write to Renovation Office, Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Anne, Cork or phone (021) 304204.  
You will receive a special certificate in the post.

#### Cork v Tipperary

In aid of the Cathedral Fund, on Monday 5th May. Two matches - U-21 at 5.45pm.

Senior at 7.00pm. in Páirc Uí Rinn. £5 adults, all children free. Tickets available in the Sacristy and C.P. Centre.

#### Cork Marriage Counselling Centre

Wish to acknowledge with appreciation £440 contributed at the annual collection in March.

#### MASS TIMES

Weekdays: 9.00, 10.00.  
Saturday Vigil: 6.15 p. m.  
Sundays: 9.00, 10.30, 12.15.

#### EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940