



Ballineaspais Bulletin

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

St. Ursula writes

Sharon was in a very bad way and her friends were worried. One or two of them tipped me off and I was quite apprehensive as I climbed the six flights of stairs to her high-rise flat in the parish in which I was then working.

I found her in tears and very frightened. Her baby was almost due and her boyfriend, who was a drug addict, had died the night before in prison. He was HIV positive and couldn't face the suffering ahead. Her fear was that she herself or, worse still, her baby would be born HIV positive. Two other babies in that parish had been born infected so the young mother-to-be had good reason to be afraid.

I stayed a long time with her and offered what support and comfort I could. Thankfully, the story had a happy ending. Sharon (not her real name) gave birth to a beautiful and very healthy baby daughter and she herself was fine, thank God. Yes, the story had ended happily, but it had been a difficult and fearful time for all concerned.

Scaremongering doesn't help, but I tell this true story because reality had to be faced. Drugs are dangerous. Vigilante

groups, in my opinion, only move the problem on. Parents, especially, need to educate themselves, and young people who attend drug awareness programmes in school need to heed them. It is very easy, too easy in fact, to get hooked. There are no safe drugs. It is very, very difficult to get 'clean' again. Sadly, many of our young people never manage to do so.

The good news is that the drug awareness programmes are really being effective and most of our young people are having the sense not to experiment. Let us all use this week of drug awareness to inform and educate ourselves.

St. Ursula

DRUG AWARENESS SUNDAY

The Bishops have agreed to designate this Sunday as Drug Awareness Sunday.

Each of us has a special responsibility to care for others. What should I do? Where can I turn for help? Cork Diocese has a designated contact for any parishioner who may need a link to the many services which exist for drug prevention and treatment. Our contact points are:

- Arbour House, Douglas, tel. 968933.
- Tabor Lodge, Belgooly, tel. 887110.
- Psychiatric Unit, Cork University Hospital, tel. 546400.
- Narcotics Anonymous, tel. 278411.

Eucharistic Ministers Expand Chaplaincy Team

6.25am and it's dark and wet... but time for the Communion round. Nurses frantically trying to rouse sleepy patients, bells, candles, confusion, and many more wards to go. Chaplain tired, sleepy from being up most of the night dealing with trauma and grief, must get finished by 8.00am... more calls and Mass.

Surely there must be a better, more appropriate circumstances for patients in hospital to receive the Body of Christ? Smoke signals for help were sent out to neighbouring parishes in Wilton and Bishopstown and the response was tremendous. Ladies and gentlemen, Ministers of the Eucharist of our area - a warm thanks.

Names and telephone numbers arrived. Phone calls were made. Rotas set up. Familiarisation meetings. Tours of the hospital. Introductions. Consultation with ward staff and we were ready.

Now the Ministers of the Eucharist come daily at 11.00 a.m. and every patient has the opportunity to have communion, with a chance to prepare beforehand. Patients are awake and alert. The Ministers have more time and real ministry is done. Jesus is truly present. Feedback is positive. Both patients and staff find the Ministers to be professional and competent and prepared to discreetly approach patients without fuss.

Now we can truly say that our

Chaplaincy team is all encompassing. We have 40 dedicated and committed wonderful people giving their time and energy every week to really serve the needs of patients. The Good Shepherd finally has the sheep listening to His voice.

We are very grateful for your help.

Fr. Sean O'Driscoll
Chaplain
Cork University Hospital

Young Christian Workers Movement

An International movement of young people in 18-30 age group. In small local groups, the YCW looks at the needs of young adults in their working, community, social and family lives, and takes actions that alleviate those needs. If you would like more information, or how to set up a local group please read our Poster displayed in the porch of the Church.

Pregnancy Care Service

We hope to hold a Bazaar/Auction in November and are currently appealing for the following items: C.D's, tapes, bric-a-brac, books, furniture, toys, etc. If you could help us with any of the above we will arrange collection. Please contact 270445/270609.

THANK YOU

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

A word of thanks to all who responded so well throughout the Summer months.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

REBUILDING CHURCH'S CREDIBILITY

For many years I have felt that the Catholic Church's position vis-a-vis the media has been an uncomfortable one, often defensive, sometimes evasive. In fairness, the Church, too often, found itself attempting to defend the indefensible where Church-related scandals were concerned. Being used to the high ground, it found itself almost incapable of practising the humility required in saying "sorry".

Hopefully, all that is about to change with the appointment of Fr. Martin Clarke as Communications Officer and principal spokesman for the Irish bishops. Since the position was created in 1995, it has always been held by a member of the

hierarchy.

Fr. Clarke studied Law in U.C.D. and practised as a solicitor before entering the priesthood. He was ordained in 1980. He worked as a curate in the Dublin Archdiocese before becoming Director of the Catholic Youth Council. Returning from a year's sabbatical he was offered the job of Communications Officer and spokesman for the Irish Bishops' Conference out of the blue.

Referring to the many scandals, he is honest enough to say that they haven't done the Church any good at all and goes on to say, "So, I think the climate we are in at the moment, it is time to rebuild the credibility of the church through the media."

Fr. Clarke has a difficult role to fill. He needs our support in his work and he needs our prayers to sustain him in his efforts. The Spirit will hopefully be with him in all he does.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to the following:

To MARY WYLEY, Bishops Court Road, on the death of her father.

To BETTY HEGARTY, Wilton Avenue, on the death of her mother.

To DOM CURRAN, Wilton Avenue, on the death of his brother.

To ANNE EDWARDS, Liam Lynch Park, on the death of her brother.

To DICK FENTON, Model Farm Road, on the death of his sister.

To MIKE HARRIS, Bishopstown Avenue, on the death of his mother.

To PAULA KELLEHER, Woodleigh Park, on the death of her mother.

St. Vincent de Paul

Frederic Ozanam, Founder of our Society, was beatified recently in Paris by Pope John Paul II. The occasion was one of great joy for the members worldwide.

As part of the ongoing celebrations we are endeavouring to enrol new members, who will be invited to engage in the wide-ranging works of the Society in Cork.

Those interested in having further information about how to become a volunteer should read the notice in the Church porch where the phone number of the Society is listed.



NOTICE BOARD

Pastoral Council

Meeting in C.P. Centre at 8.00pm on Monday 8th.

Visitation

Fr. Finbarr Crowley will visit the College Road area this week.

Sunday Mass in FAS Canteen

Re-commences this Sunday 7th at 10.00am.

Bishopstown Community School

Enrolment for Adult Evening classes on 10th September between 7.00 and 9.00pm.

Lavanagh Centre

Is looking for runners/walkers to participate in this year's Ladies Mini-Marathon on Sunday 21st September, starting at 2.00pm from South Mall. Contact Johanna at 294803.

FOLD

The FOLD will be available on weekend 13th/14th September.

Light Out of Darkness

A human/spiritual growth course will be starting in the Parish soon. The course runs one night a week. Interested? Please contact Eileen at 541582 or leave your name into the C.P. Centre. Everybody welcome.

Coffee Morning in C.P. Centre

Re-commences next Tuesday 9th after 10.00 Mass. All welcome.

Friendship Club

Re-commencing on Monday 15th September in C.P. Centre.

Readings for next Sunday.

Num.21:4-9. Ps.77. Phil.2:6-11
Jn.3:13-17.

Weekend Pre-Marriage Courses

Friday 6.30pm. to 10.00pm. and Saturday 10.00am to 5.00pm. Dates September 26/27, October 17/18, November 7/8 and December 5/6. Advance booking is essential at N.A.O.M.I. 36 Washington Street, tel. 272213, Tuesday to Friday office hours.



Bible Course

On the Old and New Testament will commence on Monday 6th October in Blarney and will run for approx. 22 Monday nights. The course will be given by Fr. Tommy Lane. In the Old Testament, the Psalms and other books will be read, and in the New Testament the Gospels will be read. The course will cover one third of the Bible.

There is no exam at the end of the course. There is no fee for attending but donations would be appreciated.

Further details on notice board in church porch. Applications to Carriganimma, Macroom, tel. 026-44027.

Irish Dancing Classes

In SMA Parish Hall on Saturday 6th September at 11.00am. and in Bishopstown GAA Hall on Wednesday 10th September at 4.00pm. For details contact 374262. Qualified teachers.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940