



Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Sunday 5th October 1997



No. 521

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DUBLIN



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Finbar writes

The fact that no student entered Clonliffe College this year to study for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Dublin made **national headlines**. This caused me surprise! Why, you may ask? The fall out in religious practice, the scandals in the church, the "a-la-carte" attitude to religion which many seem to be adopting in their own lives, the lack of prayer, especially family prayer - why are we surprised? Does not a vocation to be a witness to Christ be nourished first of all in the home amongst family, friends and neighbours. And the question must be asked, is that vocation to serve God in whatever walk of life being nourished? It's one we must all answer for ourselves.

Yes, from my experience, there is a spiritual thirst amongst people, but do we honestly make a commitment to nourish it?

Vocation to any walk of Christian life, be it priest, religious, marriage, single life, must first of all be nourished by a faith community. By that I mean people who make an honest endeavour to make the spirit of Christ alive in one's community.

Who are the people to do this? We have always looked to the priests and sisters. Vatican II spoke about the "people of God". That is all of us who are baptised. If we believe that God loves us, that God has gifted us with many talents to help others to come to know Christ, then it's not a question of what level of education we have, but I believe it's a question of knowing the love of God in my life.

Recently, speaking to a person who was sick, she told me she had no fear of dying because she was loved by the Sacred Heart of Jesus, not that she wanted to die. And before I could respond she said, "I want none of your theology now."

Are you a person who can offer this community that faith and wisdom to make this a faithful community to the gospel message of Christ?

If the faith is dying can you help it to grow through your God-given gifts and talents? The Pastoral Council is the place for you if you feel that way.

Fr. Finbar

Readings for Sunday 12 October

Ws. 7:7-11. Ps. 89. Heb. 4:12-13.
Mk. 10:17-30.

A CANDLE FOR LOVE

EMIGRANT SUNDAY 1997

A recent biography "Breath of Angels" describes an epic sailing trip around the world. After multiple hurricanes in the Caribbean, the author comes across a tiny boat, drifting across six thousand square miles of empty ocean. The dying man on board had fallen back on his childhood faith the night before, praying that some star would guide him home, and so it did.

Our candles are both a remembrance and a celebration of childhood belief, love and security to our exiles. They are a perpetuation of Baptismal candles, Christmas candles, Wedding tapers, reverent glowing symbols of sacramental joy. They shine in our windows of life, a message of unconditional caring.

Our emigrants are a mixed bunch - the devout, the occasional worshipper, the hedge-your-bet observer, the ones with genuine doubts, who may have lost touch with traditional belief.

Put out more candles anyway, and light them for those we love who are far away. But make the phone-call too. Better still, write the letter or card. The Web is great, but handwriting is better - rich or poor, successful or having a stormy passage, we love you all! You were remembered here on Emigrant Sunday.

IN SYMPATHY

We pray for the late Jim O'Hea of Orchard Road who died recently. Jim hadn't been blessed with the best of health during the past few months, but the suddenness of his death took many by surprise. Jim was well known throughout Ireland with his involvement in the motor business. However, his life was characterised by his deep faith and a kind and caring personality. To Lal his sister, who will miss his kindness and companionship, we offer you our prayers and sympathy.

We offer our sincere sympathy to IDE UI DEASUNIGH, 51 Rosbrook, Model Farm Road, on the death of her mother.

To PHILOMENA O'HARA, College Road, on the death of her brother.



The Flip Side of Grace

Count your obligations—
Name them one by one—
And it will surprise you
What the Lord wants done.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Remember the Divorce Referendum? Remember the accusations in the media of bitterness, divisiveness, lack of caring? For week after week, month after month, we were battered with coverage on the subject until we could barely claim an original thought on the matter for ourselves.

What must surely be classed as revolutionary thinking in the United States on the question of marriage has passed almost unnoticed in the media. In the State of Louisiana from August 15 an optional form of marriage has been legislated for, which is being described as "harder to enter and harder to leave". Referred to as a "covenant marriage", it requires pre-marital counselling and it allows divorce only under one of a number of conditions: abandonment, two years' separation, adultery, physical or sexual abuse, or if a spouse gets sentenced in court to hard labour or death!

Louisiana has already had many approaches from other States who are considering introducing similar legislation because of their concern for the instability of marriage in the U.S. generally. Almost half of all marriages in the U.S. now end in divorce.

Despite the preoccupation of the media with the Irish Church, how often do we hear of the support which the Church gives to the institution of marriage? How often have you read about Engaged Encounter, Marriage Encounter, Pre-marriage Courses, Marriage Counselling Centres? All of these exist and are there to prepare for and to support marriages, as well as to lend a hand when the going becomes rough. It's much easier - and trendier - to criticise the Church for what it is not doing. It doesn't tell the whole story, nor is it balanced. But perhaps the modern media isn't interested in balance?

LUKE

PARISH TEAM

Dean Denis O'Connor, P.P.,
Parochial House, Model Farm Road

Tel: 542972

Fr. Finbarr Crowley, C.C.,
1 Woodlawn, Model Farm Road

Tel: 343895

Sister Ursula O'Callaghan,
St. Columba's Convent,
Bishopstown Avenue West

Tel: 545549

Priest in Residence: Fr. Denis O'Leary
Tel: 541572

EMERGENCY NUMBER:

088-519940

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



All too often a clear conscience is merely
the result of a bad memory.

Ancient proverb



Here's **NEWS**

The Late Bishop Michael Murphy

First Anniversary Mass will be concelebrated on Monday 6th October at 7.30pm.

Scripture Courses

The new series of courses on Scripture and Spirituality begin next Tuesday in the Dominican Pastoral Centre, Pope's Quay. Details available at 502067.

Family Mass

Monthly Family Mass resuming on November 1st - All Saints Day - at 6.15pm in the Church. We are currently recruiting new readers to participate for the current year. Great fun guaranteed. New ideas always welcome. Children aged 4-8 years required for Offertory Procession. Calling any 8-18 year olds interested in joining. For further information contact: Ber Healy 541092
Kathryn O'Sullivan 344423
Nollaig O'Sullivan 341717
P.S. Could the Parish Choir please contact the above also.

Afternoon Bridge

Thank you to Eithne and Noreen who ran the Bridge in the Crypt during the Summer and raised £480 which was divided between three local charities.

At cool of day, with God I walk
my garden's grateful shade;
I hear his voice among the trees
and I am not afraid. *Chinese proverb*

On Our Lady's Birthday, September 8th, Sr. Anthony Mary Taylor, Poor Clare Monastery, College Road, made her First Profession of vows for three years.

The ceremony took place in the Poor Clare Chapel during 10.00am Mass celebrated by Fr. John Bosco, O.F.M. and Fr. Michael Lee, O.F.M.

Sr. Anthony Mary's family were present and spent the day celebrating with her and the Poor Clare community in the monastery parlour.

It was an occasion of great rejoicing and giving thanks to Jesus and Mary for the gift of another Poor Clare vocation in the church today and especially in our Diocese, and Parish of Ballinaspaig.

Pray for more Poor Clare vocations and they will pray for you! God bless and reward you all.

As it is noticeable that the Our Father is being said more often at Mass in Irish, we give you for your attention the Irish version of the prayer.

Ár nAthair

Ár nAthair, atá ar neamh,
Go naofar d'ainm,
Go dtaga do ríocht,
Go ndéantar do thoil ar an talamh,
Mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúina inniu,
Agus maith dúina ár bhfiacha,
Mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin,
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
Ach saor sinn ó úlc. Amen.