

Sunday 2nd November 1997



Ballineaspig Bulletin

Feast of All Souls



No. 525

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



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**
The Dean writes

ARE WE GETTING TIRED?

During the recent holiday weekend I took a walk up the Lee fields. There I met an old friend who was very concerned about the drop in religious vocations, and mildly berated me for not doing more to involve the laity in the work of the Parish - easier said than done.

I don't know what I'm doing wrong, but people seem to lack some of the enthusiasm of ten or twelve years ago. Perhaps people are getting tired. Perhaps the message is not being sent as it should. Just to give an example of what I mean - a meeting of Sunday Readers was called for Tuesday night last (the rota is expiring - aren't we all!). Out of a possible 32 - just four turned up.

Every parishioner over 18 is invited to nominate a person for the new Pastoral Council this week-end. This body is a most helpful and dependable source of inspiration in the Parish. I appeal to you to exercise your right to nominate the person you consider most suitable. In case

you have mislaid your nomination paper, we are placing further copies in the Church near the boxes placed to receive them. The votes will be counted on Monday night, so make sure you get yours in before then, and do us all a good turn.

We could all do with a fresh injection of idealism and enthusiasm to face the new Millennium, and counter growing indifference and ignorance of God and the things of God.

There is no better source of inspiration to be found than among your own good selves - and share it with us - and if there are things that need to be done, or done differently, let us know that - but be prepared to do your own bit also.

Denis O'Donnovan P.P.

The Big Mistake
It is the greatest
of all mistakes
to do nothing
because we can
only do a little.
Do what you can.



The 'Little Flower' proclaimed a doctor of the Church

Pope John Paul has declared St. Therese of Lisieux one of the 33 doctors of the Church. She is only the third woman to be named in this way, alongside St. Teresa of Avila and St. Catherine of Siena.

The "Little Flower", as she was popularly known, died 100 years ago, aged 24. She spent the last 10 years of her life as a nun in the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. She did not write as much as many of her fellow doctors of the Church, but her writings, in the Pope's words, "shed new light on the mysteries of the faith" and lead to "a more profound understanding of the mystery of Christ". In his proclamation letter, Pope John Paul spoke of "the intuitions in her writings which were so vast and profound that she deserves to be placed among the great spiritual masters".

St. Thérèse's three autobiographical documents were published in a single volume, 'The Story of a Soul', which has been translated into many languages and is a best-seller. She also wrote a number of letters, poems and prayers.

- The Tablet

"In the world's schema of things, survival of the fittest is the rule. In God's schema, survival of the weakest is the rule."

(Alphonse Keuter)

RESIST PESSIMISM AND FALSE GUILT!

Be grateful: never look a gift universe in the mouth!

To be a saint is nothing less than to be warmed and vitalized by gratitude. We owe it to our Creator to appreciate things, to be as happy as we can. Pay for a lovely moment by enjoying it. Resist pessimism and false guilt.

Add this section to the Lord's Prayer: "Give us today our daily bread, and help us to enjoy it without guilt." Keep God central in all.

- Ronald Rolheiser

"HANG YOUR HEAD" OVER ABORTION, CARDINAL TELLS BRITAIN

Cardinal Hume has said that Britain should "hang its head in shame" over the abortions which have taken place in the 30 years since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act.

He called for vigils of prayer to be held last weekend, which marked the Act's anniversary.

In a pastoral letter, the cardinal said that abortion is a "great evil". If the right to life from conception to the end is not recognised, he said, "our civilisation will begin to collapse, and the "culture of death" will be victorious".

The Seven Social Sins according to Mohandas Gandhi:

Politics without principle.
Wealth without work.
Commerce without morality.
Pleasure without conscience.
Education without character.
Science without humanity.
Worship without sacrifice.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

STILLNESS IN OUR LIVES

In the course of an interview on life-styles, author Deirdre Purcell, in answer to a specific question on her style of relaxation answered: "I read a lot, watch TV, go to the theatre and cinema, and I just dream. I'm perfectly capable of sitting and staring out a window for hours."

Days later, I listened to Gay Byrne on his radio programme interviewing Fr. John O'Donohue on the subject of his new book called "Anam Cara : Spiritual Wisdom from the Celtic World." Most of the interview was spent discussing the problem of stress in today's world. Stress being the body's response to over-stimulation, the answer, he claimed, was to bring a little stillness into our lives. Not easy, Fr. O'Donohue said. In fact, "pure torture" to begin with! But with a mantra or a simple passage from Scripture or a candle lighting before an icon, stillness can be induced with practice. Solitude can be, like meditation, a form of prayer, according to Fr. John.

One of the greatest "blocks" to silence, stillness, solitude is, he maintains, the fear of death. Yet he describes death as "a sacred encounter with your truest self." He encouraged befriending one's own death, in the Celtic tradition, so that one

is no longer afraid of it.

Stressing the benefits of having an Anam Cara, a Soul Friend, he spoke of the honesty needed in the relationship and the importance of change in our lives, often transforming that which is a hindrance into something positive, growing in the process.

"Anam Cara" is published at £15.00.

Luke

DEATH - HAVE NO FEAR!

Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honour.

Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king?

Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt in the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

- Kahlil Gibran



Announcements

Pastoral Council Elections

Please return your nomination papers to boxes at Church entrances. If you mislaid yours, there are spares available at boxes.

Novena of Masses for Holy Souls

Please get in your lists of deceased relatives and friends as soon as possible.

The 7.30 evening weekday Mass is resumed for November.

First Friday

Next Friday, 7th November, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday, 7th November, from 10.30am to 7.30pm.

This month's intention is for the Holy Souls.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Society

Meeting next Thursday 6th November at 8.00pm in C.P. Centre.

Bishopstown Community Association

Members meeting on Tuesday 4th November at 8.00pm. in Wilton Park House. All are welcome.

Race Night

On Friday 7th November in GAA Pavilion, Bishopstown at 9.00pm. being held by Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh Parents' Association. Free admission. Come along and enjoy a night at the races.

Deaf Enterprises

Charity Auction at Silver Springs Hotel, Sunday 2nd November, 2.00-6.00pm. Adm. £1, children free.

Sale of Work

At Ardfoyle Convent, Ballintemple, on Sunday 9th November, 11.00-5.30pm in aid of our Missions.

Parish Activities

The Parish Social was held in Jury's Hotel on Tuesday 21st October. The Chairperson of the Parish Council, Irene Connolly, welcomed everybody and even though numbers were not as high as previous years, there was still a good crowd there.

Irene thanked Con Twomey and the "Shades" for providing the music and paid tribute to Jury's Hotel for a lovely meal. On behalf of the Parish Community Ann O'Brien presented each of the Parish Team with a little gift as a token of our appreciation for their support and dedication.

Dean O'Connor acknowledged the gesture and thanked everyone for being there. He made a presentation to Mr. Bill George for his recent achievement in the field of Sports Journalism.

We wish to thank all those who gave spot prizes, as these went a long way to contributing to the overall success of the night.

Everybody enjoyed themselves but rumour has it that there was a shortage of men!!

Readings for Sunday, 2 November

Ex. 47:1-2,8-9,12, Ps. 45, 1 Cor. 3:9-11,16-17. Jn. 2:13-22.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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