



Ballineaspais Bulletin

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

GRIEF - AN INTENSELY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

A young man, a past pupil of mine, told me the following story at his father's funeral.

Tom, not his real name, has worked in America for a number of years. He knew that his father was terminally ill and he was waiting for a call from his brother in Ireland before making final arrangements to travel home. He was in his flat preparing lunch and listening to the radio when the call came. "Dad is dead" was the news which he had not really been expecting so quickly. He had hoped to be in Cork before the end came.

He sat down in a daze and found himself listening intently to the news which had just come on the radio. At the end of the news bulletin he said to himself in some surprise, "There was nothing on the news about Dad". He told me this because he considered it a very strange response. How could there be news of his Dad's death on a U.S. radio station, or on any radio station for that matter?

The response didn't seem quite so strange to me and illustrated

something which I believe very strongly. A personal grief, particularly one that we are not really ready for, is an intensely personal experience. For the person who is grieving it is the most important and probably the only news in the world at that time. When I meet a very personal grief the world, in a sense, comes to an end for a while. I wonder why the sun still shines and why other people laugh and are happy - don't they know what has happened.

This happens to all of us for a time and it is pointless to compare grief. My personal grief is my personal pain and can be measured only by me. It is pointless for anyone else to say what I should or should not feel, or should or should not do. We each cope at our own pace and in our own way and no one else can measure either the time scale or the way I respond.

Sometimes this scares people who are grieving because we can confuse great pain and faith. Deep, deep down, faith sustains us in grief even though at the level of feelings we may think that faith is gone. This is really the point I was trying to make at the beginning - pain takes over and blots out all other feelings. Sometimes my pain, my bewilderment and even my doubts are my deepest prayer, just as the prayer of Jesus in agony was "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

PRISONERS' SUNDAY

Today, Prisoners' Sunday, is a day on which, at the request of prisoners, their families and those who work with them, we the Church are asked to remember and pray for all who are locked in behind solid walls and locked out from the mainstream of society.

To be in prison is to lose one's freedom, a most fundamental deprivation and one which causes enormous pain, sometimes despair. "It is always twilight in one's cell as it is always twilight in one's heart", wrote Oscar Wilde during his sentence in Reading Gaol. Not every prisoner of today is as famous as he, but what all share in common is a loss of freedom.

The reasons for imprisonment are varied; some may be considered legitimate, others unjust. Particularly heinous crimes like murder, rape and violent robbery provoke instinctive negative responses of fierce anger, hatred and the desire for retribution. On the other hand, when people are jailed for political or religious beliefs, or on occasions when there is reason to believe justice has not been done, the reaction is one of sympathy and support. Sadly, these latter situations do not often come to light. The problem of safeguarding society in general and of dealing with people who inflict pain and damage on others does not have easy solutions, particularly as justice systems frequently leave much to be desired.

Jails are certainly not pleasant places. Their inmates are often subjected to physical and mental abuse from one

another, if not from their custodians. The young nanny, Louise Woodward, whose life sentence has caused international concern, was placed in solitary confinement for her own safety, immediately after her trial.

Today we are asked to set aside all possible prejudices and turn with compassion towards prisoners. Sr. Helen Prejean, in a recent 'Late, Late' appearance, does just that. She told viewers how, during her encounters with condemned prisoners on Death Row, she found ordinary human beings, despite their horrific crimes.

Let us follow her lead and remember prisoners and all connected with them in our prayers today.

YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS

Y.C.W. is a mass movement of young people who by action and reflection attempt to change and improve their lives and their society. It is organised and run at every level by young people aged 18-30.

The headquarters in Dublin have launched a nationwide campaign to encourage people to become involved, that is to set up groups locally. Fr. Eoin McCrystal and Vicky Rattigan will be in Cork in early December, or would be prepared to meet any parish/group who are interested in hearing more. The visit would be directly to the parish.

The Youth Ministry Office at 34 Paul Street, tel. 270151, is acting as a liaison, and please do not hesitate to contact Aine at the office if you would be interested in hearing more about Y.C.W.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

THOSE LITTLE WHITE LIES

On the same day that I read Maeve Binchy's "Maeve's Week" in the Irish Times week-end Supplement, I read the Dean's appeal in the Ballineaspig Bulletin (No. 525) for more involvement by parish laity. I wonder if there is a connection?

Maeve Binchy listed eight instances where the little white lie was told instead of the more honest truth. She concludes: "True stories. I'd lie in three of them (myself). Everyone else I asked said they'd lie in them all. Who can you trust nowadays?"

The Dean, obviously concerned about a perceived lack of enthusiasm in the parish, asks

Rest In Peace

Frank Olney, Glasheen Road, died on 1st November - Feast of All Saints. For years Frank and his wife Dorothy attended the 12.15 Mass in the Church of the Holy Spirit, occupying the same seat week in, week out. A gentle and sincere man, he was quietly devoted to his wife (of over fifty years) and his family, Jim, Michael, Mary, Anne and Frank Jnr. to whom we extend sincere sympathy.

Frank spent his working life with the "Examiner" newspaper and many of his former colleagues attended his funeral Mass at the Lough Church. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

the question: "Are we getting tired?" But, pragmatic man that he is, he accepts that "we could all do with a fresh injection of idealism and enthusiasm". He goes on: "There is no better source of inspiration to be found than among your good selves." And he concludes: "If there are things to be done, or done differently, let us know that - but be prepared to do your own bit also."

Vatican II threw open the doors of the Church to ALL the People of God. Nowhere are they more open than in Ballineaspig Parish. So - how do we respond to the question, "Are we getting tired?"

Back to Maeve Binchy. Back to the choice between honesty and the white lie. Perhaps we ARE getting tired. Maybe we DO need that "fresh injection of idealism and enthusiasm." But we must be honest with ourselves and with others. We must admit that the problem with the Church is not with THEM. It is with ME, with US. And only WE, together, can resolve the crisis.

Luke



We offer our sincere sympathy to RITA SHAW, Model Farm Road, on the death of her brother. To SHEILA O'MAHONY, Roger Casement Park, on the death of her brother.



TAKE NOTE

Nominations to Pastoral Council

Reminder to all nominated persons to attend meeting in Crypt to elect a person from your district for new Council.

Areas 7-12: Monday at 8.00p.m.

Areas 1-6: Tuesday at 8.00p.m.

Bulletins to Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next week-end.

Can You Help?

Rosary beads in black purse lost near Church.

N.A.O.M.I

For information and advice on achieving pregnancy, fertility awareness, menopause support group and premarriage course, please contact our office at 36 Washington Street, tel. 272213, Tuesday to Friday office hours.

I.S.A.N.D.S.

Irish Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society will hold its annual interdenominational memorial service at St. Finbarr's Cemetery at 3.00p.m. on Sunday 9th November. All welcome. Contact Shirley Pepper at 961475 for more information.

Mass in St. Oliver's Cemetery

On Saturday next, 15th November, at 3.00p.m.

Taize Prayer

Dochas Community invites young adults to an evening of Taize Prayer on Monday 10th November at 8.00p.m. at 19 Montford Park, Mardyke. "Stay here and keep watch with me."

A Time for Healing

A series of Low Impact Exercises which assist in preventing osteoporosis and other ailments are currently being run each Tuesday & Thursday at 3.00p.m. in Room 11 at the S.M.A. Centre, Wilton. Classes are conducted by Sr. Vera Harrison RSM, A.D.A. Recreation Studies. Cost £20 for 10 sessions. Contact 346283. For aching backs, necks, shoulders, knees - Swedish Massage and Muscle & Ligament Therapy are also available by appointment with Sr. Vera.

Sale of Work

On Saturday 15th November at Ardfallen House, Douglas Road, 10.30-2.30p.m. Adm. adults 50p, children 20p.

Arthritis Foundation

Lecture "Risks Verses Benefits of Exercise" on Tuesday 18th November in Jurys Hotel at 8.00p.m. Speaker: Dr. Pionnuala Quigley. Admission free - all are welcome.

Volunteers Needed

Cerebral Palsy are looking for volunteers to come in once a week for approx. 3 hours. Please contact Brian Twomey at 086-2437568, Kristene at 272828 or Margaret at 278280.

The Lavanagh Centre

Is very thankful to the residents of Woodlawn for their very generous contribution of £90.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940

Readings for Sunday 16th November

Dan. 12:1-13. Ps. 15. Heb. 10:11-14, 18. Mk. 13:24-32.