



Sunday 1st February 1998

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

No. 537



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENBY'S CROSS, DORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes



It was a cold, chilly winter's day with that white light which often comes when snow is near. I was at a funeral and we made our way through the graveyard behind the coffin. When the prayers were over we turned to go. Further up in the graveyard, between the graves, were masses of white snowdrops. People were remarking on them and pointing them out to each other, "a small sign of resurrection", I heard someone saying, "new life among the graves."

That image is very much with me today, the Feast of St. Brigid and the first day of Spring. You could say Brigid lived at the time of the first Spring in the Irish Church. It was a time when

Ireland earned the title of Island of Saints and Scholars. There must have been many young men and women who listened to Patrick's preaching, who listened and turned away. Brigid and her companions did not. They listened, they thought about it, more than likely they argued and discussed it at length. Brigid, I believe, was too strong a woman to accept anything blindly. She must have taken time, must have questioned and put her own point of view, but eventually she was convinced and, when convinced, she acted. Many other young men and women did the same and so we had one of the most glorious periods in our history, spiritually and intellectually.

Today we are at a crossroads of faith in Ireland, especially among our young people. This is the age of the laity. The faith will either find new vigour and new growth among our young people, or it will decline. I don't expect young people of today to accept without question; that, in my view, is intellectual stupidity. But, to walk away without question is equally stupid.

That is why I am so excited by the new initiative this week in our Parish and I hope that some of our young people will join Fr. Michael and his team in the C.P. Centre next Wednesday night at 7.00p.m.

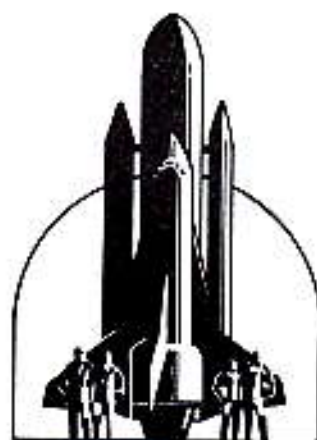
OUR SYMPATHIES

We offer our sincere sympathy to
SR. AILBE MOLONEY, St.
Catherine's Convent, on the death
of her sister.



Congratulations to the following parishioners on their marriage:
HILARY O'LEARY, 18 Kenley Drive, who married Sean Cotter, Rochestown Road.
PETER O'BRIEN, 2 Lynbrook, Glasheen Road, who married Jean O'Donoghue, Ovens.
FINBARR HIGGINS, 22 Leedale, Model Farm Road, who married Noelle Lindey, Carraroe, Sligo.
CATHERINE CASEY, 101 Leedale, Model Farm Road, who married Liam Honohan, Carrigaline.
MARK FOLEY, 49 Leedale, Model Farm Road, who married Mary O'SHEA, Forestry House, Model Farm Road.

Readings for Sunday 8 February
Is. 6:1-2, 3-8. Ps. 137.
1 Cor. 15:1-11. Lk. 5:1-11.



A STELLAR PERFORMANCE!

Congratulations to Louise O'Sullivan, and Kathy and Jennifer Kenefick, who were successful in gaining Irish Hockey trials.

Congratulations also to Mount Mercy who won a place in the semi-final of the Munster Senior Cup.

At the Munster Indoor Athletics Championships held in Nenagh recently, Fionnuala Lombard of Mount Mercy came 1st in the Shot Putt and 2nd in the High Jump. Also the Mount Mercy Relay Team - Sharon Kelly, Avril Kelly, Zeile McDonnell and Ailis Healy - came 1st in the U.16 relays. Congratulations to all!

FACING THE FUTURE

The Mount Mercy Fashion Show '97 held in Jury's Hotel was a great success, raising the grand total of £2,600 for two very worthwhile charities, The Cork Rape Crisis Centre and Cuslee Refuge for Abused Women. Great effort was made by everyone to ensure its success.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

THE FIRST STONE?

Don't you often wonder about the priorities given to what is considered newsworthy by the media generally? Famine in Somalia or Ethiopia must be regarded as newsworthy, certainly. The latest atrocity in Northern Ireland or the Middle East would warrant a headline and coverage without doubt. But, whatever the truth of the matter is, can the blanket coverage of the President Bill Clinton saga really be justified?

Innocent until proven guilty would appear to have gone out the window in the mass of comment, at least by most commentators. Innocent or not, does an effective president of the US, or indeed any politician, need to be moral as well as competent? Is the shame in being compromised? Of being accused of lying? Of simply being caught? Or, perhaps, being the innocent victim in it all?

It occurs to me that Christ may have had an answer to the dilemma. To the mob who would have stoned to death the woman taken in the very act of adultery, He said, "Let him who has not sinned throw the first stone". To the woman, He said, "Neither will I condemn you. Go, sin no more". Food for thought perhaps?



YOU'RE THE MISSING INGREDIENT

Cookery Demonstration

Cookery Demonstration and Food Tasting in Jurys Hotel on Wednesday 11 Feb. at 8p.m. by Georgina O'Sullivan and Sheila Kelly of Bord Bia, and Michael Ryan of Isaacs Restaurant, in aid of Bishopstown Lions Club charities. Tickets £5 available from Bishopstown Post Office, Centra, Curraheen Road, Lions Club members, or at door on the night. Raffles and lots of prizes.



Bishopstown Camogie Club

Following their historic first win in the Senior Championship, the Club will make a house-to-house collection in the greater Bishopstown area over the next few weeks. One player will undertake the climbing of Mount Kilimanjaro (almost 20,000ft) as the medium of securing sponsorship for the Club's benefit only. We look forward to your kind support.



Visitation

Fr. Finbarr will visit remainder of Rossbrook and Kenley in the coming weeks.



Blessing of Candles

Monday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation and candles will be blessed and available at the church doors.

Tuesday 3rd, the Feast of St. Blaise - throats will be blessed after Masses.

First Friday

Next Friday 6th. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Next Friday 6th February, from 10.30 to 7.30p.m.

Day for Life

Sunday 1st February is the Day for Life. CURA - the organisation which cares for people in the event of unexpected pregnancy, and resulting problems - would like people to know they are there to help. Further information at doors and church notice boards, or any of Parish Team.

Youth Alert

SCALA Youth Team, headed by a young Redemptorist, Fr. Michael O'Riordan, hope to meet with young men and women (17-25 years) in the C.P. Centre on Wednesday 4th February at 7.00p.m.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

A special collection will be taken up at Mass on the weekend 7/8 February. The proceeds will help the organisers to fund invalids and helpers to travel. Your contribution would be much appreciated.

Bishopstown Community Association

Members meeting on Tuesday 3 Feb. at 8p.m. in Wilton Park House.

Liturgy Group

Minutes of last meeting available in Sacristy.

Getting Married This Year?

C.M.C.C. have a range of Pre-Marriage Courses arranged for this year. If you would like to take part, please book now for courses up to July 1998, at 275678.

Weight Watchers

As from 8th February classes held in Wilton will be held in Bishopstown GAA Club, tel. 872898.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940