

Sunday 22nd February 1998



No. 540



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNISHY'S CROSS, DUBLIN

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

CALVARY IS NOT THE END

The award-winning picture of the year which appeared in all our national papers was very poignant. The devastating grief etched on that poor woman's face was harrowing and touched us all deeply. It struck me very forcibly that in the face of such suffering a God who hasn't suffered would have little or nothing to say to us. This is why Good Friday and Calvary have such meaning.

But, and there is a very big but, as we begin Lent, if Calvary is the end, then life holds very little hope for any of us. In the face of the massive global suffering we witness daily on our T.V. screens there has to be more, much more to sustain us and give us hope. Good Friday is not the end of the Liturgical Season we are now entering. This season ends with Easter and the glory of the Resurrection.

I hear that many young people love our Easter Vigil Celebrations and wouldn't miss them for the world. How right these young people are. Christ

our Lord and Saviour suffered, died and rose again. That is our faith, that is our hope, that is our joy and source of peace.

We are entering the season of Lent, during which we acknowledge the reality of pain, sin and suffering in our world. To deny it would be to try to live a Peter Pan existence in never, never land. We acknowledge pain and sin, but we also acknowledge that our God walks with us every step of the way. The kernel of our faith is that Christ our Saviour conquered sin, suffering, pain and death.

This is the whole point of our Christian faith, but it is not forced on us. We have a choice to accept or reject it. Lent is a time which helps us to reflect on and make that choice. The Cross is a reality in life. The triumph of the Cross is an even greater reality of life and faith. Drugs, drink and desolation are very often the result of trying to run away from the first and not accepting the second. "Christ our Lord is risen as he said."

Heavenly Father, walk with me today down every street, in every shop; stand in each queue and share each conversation; let me introduce you to all I meet, and see their needs and listen to their fears.

A PARISHIONER WRITES...

Coliemore,
Wilton Avenue

Dear Editor,

I would like to tell you about the visit of **Christina Noble** who will be giving a talk in the Rochestown Park Hotel on Monday 23rd February at 8 p.m. about her work among the very poor of Vietnam. There was also a film about her last Monday night on RTE called "Mama Tina" and it is unbelievable what she has achieved.

She came herself from poverty and desertion in Dublin slums, eventually found her way to England and ended up penniless in Vietnam among the poorest of the poor. She has many voluntary helpers with her now, and to me it's even greater than Mother Teresa since Christina's beginnings were so deprived, no education, nothing, just spirit and hope.

She is in Ireland at present and has a Foundation in Dublin called the Christina Noble Children's Foundation. I'm sure any contributions to the Foundation would be gratefully received by her for her work. The address is:
Unit 2307,
Richmond Business Campus,
North Brunswick Street,
Dublin.

Yours sincerely,

Imelda O'Hanlon

Rest in Peace

Noel Buckley lived on Wilton Rr prior to his home being taken over by the expanding Credit Union premises. He and his wife Mona then purchased a property in Ballincollig where their daughter Anne is married. He never severed his ties with our parish and returned several times a week to attend Mass and to manage the Catholic papers on behalf of his beloved Legion of Mary. Noel entered the Bon Secours for a serious operation about a week or ten days before his death and never really recovered.

A gentle kindly man, everybody spoke well of Noel - he was everyone's friend. To Mona, son Tom, daughter Anne and all who miss him, we extend the sympathy of our community.



We offer our sincere sympathy to **JOHN CUNNINGHAM**, Bishopstown Avenue West, on the death of his mother.

TAKE TIME

Take time:

- To think. It is the source of power.
- To play. It is the secret of perpetual youth.
- To read. It is the fountain of wisdom.
- To pray. It is the greatest power on earth.
- To love and be loved. It is a God-given privilege.
- To be friendly. It is the road to happiness.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

ALWAYS A PRIEST

A recent "Would You Believe" programme on RTE 1 dealt with vocations to the priesthood. More specifically, it dealt with those priests who become disenchanted with their ministry and left.

The programme journeyed with three priests who had left ministry, but who insisted that they had not "lost their vocations" but continued to "walk in God's way" - and still saw themselves as priests.

They left for different reasons. One was disenchanted by the slowness of change in the Church. One commented that he was well prepared for priesthood, physically, mentally and

spiritually - but not emotionally. All three had problems with relationships and with intimacy - and ultimately with celibacy.

All were supported by family and friends, but they were critical of the rigid structures within the Church for an eventuality like theirs. They were hurt, as were their spouses, at the non-recognition by the Church of their marriages and by their exclusion from Communion. Yet their children were accepted for Baptism.

Interestingly, they did not opt for laicisation, refusing to admit in writing that they had made a mistake in becoming priests in the first place.

Perhaps we are not always supportive of our priests with our prayers and with our encouragement? In ministry, we owe them our support. Out of ministry, they deserve our support even more.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE SEASON OF LENT

25 February
Ash

Wednesday

The real work of Lent is what God does in our hearts. Our task is to let God in.

Psalms 51



26 Blessing

God's commands are not just hoops to jump through; they are the path to a life of blessing without end.

Luke 9:22-25

27 Fasting

The traditional Lent practice of fasting reminds us of the banquet we long to share with our Savior.

Isaiah 58:1-9



28 Health

Sin is the worst sickness because it cuts us off from the Source of life itself. Jesus came to reconnect us.

Isaiah 58:9-14



Lent

Ash Wednesday

Next Wednesday, 25th, is a day of fast and abstinence. Masses at 7.30a.m. 9.00a.m. 10.00a.m. and 7.30p.m. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Weekdays of Lent

Masses 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30p.m.

Fridays of Lent

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament from 7.00p.m. to 7.30p.m.

Young Parishioners

Fr. Michael Kelleher, C.S.S.R. will celebrate special Masses in the Crypt for young people on Ash Wednesday at 7.30p.m. and Saturday evenings of Lent at 6.15p.m.

He will attend 6.15 and 12.15 Masses this week-end.

Can You Help?

Urgently required unwanted blankets, baby blankets, sheets, pillowcases for hospital outside Chernobyl. Phone 341805 after 6.00p.m. before 27th February.

Giving up Alcohol for Lent?

Why not take a short term pledge either after 10.30 a.m. Mass on Temperance Sunday, 22nd February, or on Ash Wednesday 25th, or by contacting the local Pioneer Centre, tel. 544682 or 345281.

The Christina Noble Children's Foundation

Helping the children of Mongolia and Vietnam. Christina will be appearing at Rochestown Park Hotel on Monday 23rd February at 8.00p.m. Admission free.

Readings for Sunday 1 March

Deut.26:4-10. Ps.90. Rom.10:8-13. Lk.4:1-13.

Liturgy Group

Meeting on Monday at 8.00p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Trocaire

Trocaire is celebrating 25 years working for the underprivileged. A special Mass for Munster will be celebrated in the Cathedral, Thurles, on Sunday next, 1st March, at 3.00p.m. Tickets for admission are available at C.P. Centre, 10.00-12.00 during this week.

Mission for the next Millennium

At SMA Community Centre, on Saturday 7th March, 10.00-5.00 (light lunch served). Speakers: Michael McCabe, SMA, Sheila Dillon, Trocaire and Sean Healy, SMA. Bookings from Fachtna O'Driscoll before Feb. 28th at 292871.

Bridge Night

Mount Mercy Parents Association will hold a Bridge Night at Jurys Hotel on Sunday 1st March at 7.15p.m. Adm. £5. Special novice section. All welcome.

Worried about Breast Cancer?

Reach to recovery offers information and support through your local volunteer. Freephone (helpline) Irish Cancer Society 1800-200-700.

Peace and Reconciliation

The 22nd annual concelebrated Mass for Peace and Reconciliation in Ireland will take place at St. Augustine's Church on Sunday 8th March at 3.30p.m. Bishop Gerard Clifford, Auxiliary Bishop of Armagh will preach.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

088-519940