



Sunday 24th May 1998

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Ascension of the Lord

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENHY'S CROSS, CORK

FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr. Finbarr writes

During the week I had the pleasure of being the celebrant for the end of the year Masses for the Transition year students and Leaving Certs in Mount Mercy.

The preparation and participation of students, parents and staff had to be experienced to be believed - in comparison to our normal participation of Sunday Mass. I asked myself the question: why doesn't this happen every Sunday?

The straight answer, of course, is that these occasions are special ones, it was the end of something unique, and celebration was very much the theme of the night.

But then isn't every Sunday unique? Isn't every Sunday a celebration? The talent of people comes very much to the fore in the celebrations. Is it the case that we need a special reason to celebrate as the girls in Mount Mercy did?

I write this questioning myself as much as anybody else. Are my expectations too high every Sunday? Maybe, as I have done during the week in taking a hard look at Sunday Mass and its celebration, it is something we could all do.



Novena to the Holy Spirit

Commences this Saturday 23rd at 6.15 p.m. Mass. The Novena prayers will be said at each of the Sunday Masses. The Novena continues each night from Monday to Friday at 7.30 p.m. with Mass and Novena Prayers.



Faith and Sharing Retreat

Everybody welcome - young and not so young - able and disabled - rich and poor - and especially those who wouldn't usually go on a retreat, at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, 26 June - 1 July. Speaker: John Vanier. Cost £175. Contact Breda Shannon at 053-45963.



Rest in Peace

We pray for the late Sean O'Donoghue, Bishopscourt Lawn, who died during the week after a long illness. A man of deep faith, Sean attended daily Mass for over 50 years at least. He was also a Minister of the Eucharist here in the parish, and the Eucharist was central to his life at all times. His death was one to be envied. As is often said, "I only wish I had his faith" - this was very true in Sean's case. During his illness he was lovingly cared for by his wife Noreen and children John and Patricia. We offer them all our prayers and sympathy at this time.



We offer our sincere sympathy to LEONIE KIELY, Court Cairn, Model Farm Road, on the death of her brother in Holland.

*Never undertake
anything for which
you wouldn't have
the courage to ask
the blessings of heaven.*

George C. Lichtenberg

Baptism in Christ



We welcome the following into our Christian community:

Christopher Aidan Finnegan
Laura Katherine O'Sullivan
Katie O'Driscoll
Meabh Theresa Walsh
Aidan John Tynan
Wilson Antonio Halligan
Leah Julia Cotter
Conor Niall O'Dwyer
Stephen Dermot O'Brien
Aidan Thomas Burton
Sophie Eccles
Emily May Buckley
Shay Gerard Horgan
Jack Thomas Quigley
Lauren Ashley O'Sullivan
Eoin Sarsfield Keating
Fergus Bernard Hennessy
Ross Niall Horgan
Katie Anne O'Connell
Rory David Cahill
Emma Catherine Corcoran

Prayer to Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
inspire us by your wisdom,
heal us by your love.

Come, Holy Spirit,
correct us with your justice,
protect us with your power.

Come, Holy Spirit,
renew our Parish
enflame us with love.

Come unfailing hope,
Come, true light,
Come, o powerful one,
Come, and renew us.



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

AN EXPENSIVE ANACHRONISM?

Some weeks ago I watched a TV documentary on the Vatican's Swiss Guards. I found it interesting, but thought, does the Church really need all of these people? Are mercenaries from Switzerland, from a bygone age, a luxury we can do without? (They've been there for 400 years). What exactly have they got to do with the message of Christ? I will let you, dear reader, come up with your own answer. I have no difficulty with my personal response.

And now, their commander, Alois Estermann and his wife have been shot dead by (it appears) a disgruntled member of the Swiss Guard, Cedric Tornay, who then went on to shoot himself. There is even a further suggestion that Estermann was an East German spy working for the Stasi secret police! Nonsense, says a Vatican spokesman.

Old institutions are on trial in Britain too. A Canon in the Anglican Church has suggested that it is no longer wise to have hereditary succession rights to the British monarchy. In turn, this begs the question about the position of the reigning monarch's position as head of the Anglican Church. The further question has been raised about the very status of the Anglican Church as the Established Church. Should it continue to be? Or

should the Church be dis-established?

None of our business? Perhaps. But it seems to me to be a sign of the times. The Church, I believe, be it Roman Catholic or Anglican, is a Church of all of the people of God, not merely of those who have traditionally taken control of it. Radical thinking? I don't think so. Although on reflection, perhaps Christ and His early followers were pretty radical thinkers too. Thinkers and doers, as the current Mass readings will show!

Congratulations



To DAVID GRIFFIN, Kenley Drive, on being a member of the Presentation College Quiz Team who won the Examiner Schools Quiz recently.

To BRIAN BARRY-MURPHY, Kenley, on being selected for the Irish U-21 panel for the forthcoming Internationals.

To our parishioners, JIMMY BARRY-MURPHY, JOHN CROWLEY and team doctor CON MURPHY, who were involved with the Cork team who won the National League Hurling Final last Sunday.

To Mr. Fennell and third class boys at Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, who recently won An Cumann Scoildramaiochta, Feile na hEireann.



Diocesan South American Missions
The annual collection will take place at all Masses next week-end.

Pentecost Community Exhibition
The posters/displays need to be in to the C.P. Centre by this week-end. We are very heartened by the enthusiasm to date.

Bridge during Summer Months
Commencing on Tuesday 2nd June at 2.30 p.m. in the Crypt. All welcome. Proceeds for local charities.

Thursday Afternoon Art
Classes organised by AOSTA and the VEC. will hold an Art Exhibition on Thursday 28th May from 11.00 to 5.00 p.m. in the Imperial Hotel. Admission free. All welcome.



Bishopstown G.A.A.
Golf Classic will take place at Lee Valley Golf Club on Thursday 11th June. Details in Club at 545616.

Guide Dogs for the Blind
The annual church gate collection will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 30th/31st May.



Blood Transfusion Service
Will hold a Blood Donor Clinic at the SMA Community Centre on Thursday 28th May, from 5.30 - 8.30 p.m.



Bishopstown Social Services
Our Annual Summer Outing for Senior Citizens and Friends will take place on Thursday 4th June. Tickets £10.
Contact: Nora Fitzpatrick 546358
Brid Hartnett 544693
Michael Haydon 541638.

Readings for Sunday 31 May
Acts 2:1-11. Ps.103. Rom.8:8-17.
Jn. 14:15-16. 23-26.

PARISH TEAM

Dean Denis O'Connor, P.P. Tel. 542972
Fr. Finbarr Crowley, C.C. Tel. 343895
Sister Ursula O'Callaghan. Tel. 545549

EMERGENCY NUMBER:

087-2519940

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