

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 1999



# Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



No. 580

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR  
**PARISH  
TEAM**

*The Dean writes*

Last Sunday afternoon I was out for my walk and met two ladies - the younger had her 2½ year old son in tow. Very quickly this young man made his feelings felt - the kernel of his message being that he hadn't the slightest interest in the company or conversation of his elders, and wanted out - pronto. His mother explained with a sigh: "You can see now who is boss in our house."

The older lady responded: "You may think you have problems now, but enjoy them - it's in twelve or fourteen years from now you'll face the real problems."

Later she expanded to me on this statement, unfortunately an all too familiar story. Her fourteen year old - "the best in the world really, wouldn't harm a stray cat" - won't go to Mass - this is just a dead area in his life. The "showers" that go are a lot of hypocrites anyway, furthermore the sermons would bore you to tears, et cetera, et cetera. This gesture of rebellion is sometimes followed by a declaration that he hates school, hates this house, hates having to be polite to those boring friends and relations who

come to visit them. All symbols of authority at home at school, or at church are like windmills to Sancho Panza (or was it the irrepressible Don Quixote himself?) - he must have a tilt at them all.

I mouthed the usual platitudes that he will grow out of this mind-set, that most of us appreciate the values absorbed from home as we grow up a bit, and return to them. I hated myself for having nothing more positive to offer than this trite, rather less than convincing observation. I hadn't given any explanation why things should happen like this in a family who have done everything to give love and example to this offspring. I felt too that this mother suspects that time will not bring about the return of her prodigal as surely as it used to, and she is probably right. There are many and powerful influences in young people's lives today that cannot be matched by an ageing cleric.

I suppose parents will have to settle for doing the best they can - and pray. And young people, there are better and less bloody ways of resolving tensions between the generations than breaking the hearts of those who love you most.

*Alexis O'Connor*

## Letter to the Editor

Little Orchard,  
Farranlea Park

Dear Editor,

I note that this year our parish calendar has an illustration to depict Interreligion dialogue. At Mass we have also been praying for Christian Unity.

The following is a quotation from Fr. Lawrence Freeman, O.S.B. "The goal of all religion is the perfection of the human being as a person of love and wisdom. It is mocked by religious pride and exclusivism: whether the imperialism of the fundamentalist Christian or the superiority of the born again Buddhist. Why then be a Christian or a Buddhist, a Muslim, Jew...? What does it mean to be a true disciple and follower of one path? Perhaps this is the essential question to enter the new millennium with. It is the question which most deftly liberates religion from its own ego. Courageously pondered it empowers us to love our own tradition with fidelity and obedience but at the same time to love our neighbours as themselves."

On the third Sunday of each month the Bulletin is distributed to all the homes, including non-Catholic homes. Would this be an opportunity to convey our good wishes to our non-Catholic neighbours, most of whom are fellow Christians? I would like

to suggest that we congratulate them on their joys and sympathise with them on their sorrow as we do with the Catholic parishioners.

Yours sincerely,  
Rowena O'Sullivan

The Editor writes ;

Indeed, I agree with the writer. I would like to think that this bulletin is non-denominational. We welcome notices from everyone, and this would include any parishioners, irrespective of their religious beliefs.



We offer our sincere sympathy to the Sisters of the Infant Jesus, St. Joseph's Convent, Model Farm Road, on the death of Sr. Genevieve Maguire, a native of Ardfert, Co. Kerry, and a member of the community in St. Joseph's Convent for the past while.



'But we've ALWAYS done it like this ...'



### THE WEEK AHEAD - THURSDAY

Illness touches everybody's mettle. While it affects the sick themselves most intimately as well as their families and carers, its ripples wash over friends, neighbours, work colleagues and acquaintances. The loss of health awakens searching questions about life, its purpose and our destiny. It causes many to question the good of a loving God. Pain and suffering disconcert young and old alike. Where do we turn in the midst of such confusion, and even anger, perhaps?

One haven the church offers is in prayer through Mary's intercession. A focus for this prayer is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick on Thursday next, February 11th, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes has its own unique personal memories and graces for many. For all of us, Thursday is an opportunity to join with the church worldwide in entrusting our sick and our sickness to Mary, asking the Lord's blessing upon those in greatest need and those who care for them. This year, we could remember especially those who are ill in mind, those who despairing of a purpose in life are suicidal, those who especially need the care of our Mother, Our Lady of Lourdes. Let us pray for one another.

## Deaths

Mrs. Dolly Leslie (nee Ryan) died at Rosenalee Retirement Home just a week after her friend Nora Burton. Dolly was a member of a well-known North Cork family with a long history in medical care (as well as horses and greyhounds!). A petite and colourful young lady (hence her pet name Dolly) she qualified as a nurse at Cork's North Infirmary, joined the British Medical Corps in India, married Dr. C. Leslie, returned to England and practised her profession there and in Ireland. She lived for some time on Model Farm Road with her sister Donagh O'Herlihy, and retired to Rosenalee some six years ago. To her sister, nephews, nieces, and her many card playing friends, we offer our sincere sympathy.

Patricia (Pat) O'Brien, Highfield Lawn. Pat had not been in the best of health for the past year or so, but she passed away quite unexpectedly on Thursday 28th January. She was a lady who loved her game of Bridge, and had a wide circle of friends through her association with the game, and indeed through her earlier association with the work of meals-on-wheels at St. Vincent's Convent. Her Requiem Mass was celebrated by her brother Fr. Tom O'Flaherty, from Florida, USA. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband Joe, her family Deirdre, Tom and Vincent, grandchildren, brothers and sister, relatives and her many friends.



## MOUNT MERCY NEWS

### Irish Under 16 Hockey

Breeda Lynch has been selected as a goalie on the U-16 Irish Hockey team. From March 17th - 20th Breeda will be in Scotland with the team to play the Home Counties (England, Scotland, Wales). The European Tournament takes place in Belgium on March 31st. We wish Breeda the very best of luck.

### St. Finbarre's Beyond 2000

On Wednesday January 27th, six students and two teachers attended the Lord Mayor's Chambers for the launch of the Inter-Schools debating competition for fourth years. The motion for the first round is "That St. Finbarre's Cathedral is more a resource than a relic in contemporary Cork". Eighteen schools from Cork City and County are taking part in the debate.



### Sail Chernobyl

On Friday January 29th, Simon Coveney, T.D. visited the school and gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk to the girls on his family's round-the-world voyage to raise money for the children of Chernobyl. The family are now sailing between Sri Lanka and the Maldives and have been at sea since October '97. They hope to raise £1 million for the project - to date the project has raised £300,000.



### Love Is In The Air

St. Valentine's week-end Annual Mass to celebrate Love and Commitment, on Friday 12th February at 7.30 p.m. at North Cathedral. Everyone welcome, especially married and engaged couples. Families also welcome. Renew marriage vows, blessing of engagement. More information at 357571.



### Congratulations!

Our best wishes go to Brian Mullins of 115 Leesdale, Model Farm Road who was awarded the Cork Chamber of Commerce prize for attaining the highest marks in Economics in the Cork region at Leaving Certificate level. Brian was a student at Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh, and we take this chance to congratulate him and his teacher on the achievement.

### Readings for Sunday 14 February

1 Sam.16:6-7, 10-13. Eph.5:8-14.  
Ps.22. Jn.9:1-41.

### PARISH TEAM

Fr. Tom Clancy, P.P.	347616
Fr. Finbarr Crowley, C.C.	343895
Dean Denis O'Connor	542972
Sr. Ursula O'Callaghan	545549

### EMERGENCY NUMBER

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