

Sunday 14th February 1999



No. 581

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

THE TALK is of overweight and exercise, of smoking and heart attacks. Often, the tone is pessimistic. One wonders is there anything left that one could enjoy and that would still be good for one. The same pessimistic approach surrounds Lent. So much so that it is hard to believe that Lent is a preparation for the victory of Easter. The victory is Christ's and ours. It is a victory over death, sin and selfishness. Lent is to prepare to celebrate that victory.

How do we prepare for any celebration? We ensure that it will be an occasion of unity and community, that old scores will be forgiven and old sores healed, divisions bridged, that the open hand of friendship will be proffered and accepted again rather than the clenched fist, that the outsider will be welcomed as a member of family, that many less important things will be left to one side to have time for key preparations, that the personality, the centre-stage star, will be duly honoured.

So Lent is a time for reconciliation, of sharing and caring, of making time for Jesus in prayer. It is an invitation to grow closer to the One who has freed us from selfishness and made us members of His family. It is a time to deepen appreciation of our privileged greatness. Lent is meant to be enjoyed rather than endured. One could love Lent.



Ash Wednesday is a beginning. For some, Ash Wednesday is the once-off big day, no cigarettes, no alcohol, no sweets, no bad language. It is the day of the big No. In fact, it should be the day of the big Yes; our new Yes to God, through Lenten fasting. Dieting is not fasting. Fasting has a religious dimension. Among the people of God, it has always been considered an essential part of responding to His friendship. It is a very concrete way of expressing one's dependence on the Creator. It is a good test of our sincerity. It is easy to say or even to believe that we are serving our God. Fasting is one acid test.

FAMILY PRAYER FOR LENT

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



(while candle is being lit)

Leader: May the Light of Christ always shine on us.

We thank you for the gift of being here.

(Pause and pray for one another in silence.)



Reader (Adult): Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice... And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites; they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them... When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do; they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting.

Matthew 6:1,5,16.

Leader: What are we asked to do in the gospel?

Reader (Child):

The Loving Child

Once, long ago, there lived a wealthy man and he had land and riches of great worth. He had two sons who were his pride and joy. He loved them more than anything on earth.

One day the younger took his share of wealth and left. The father watched his son depart. He watched until he disappeared from view and a great love was heavy in his heart.

The father was so sad each time he heard the stories that his neighbours spread around. Yet, still the father's love was deep and strong. "Now he is lost," he said, "but he will be found."

Each day he waited for his son's return saying, "He will come back, of that I'm sure". And then, one joyful day, he saw far off his son returning, dressed in rags and poor.

The father rushed to meet him eagerly. He held him tightly, looked on him and smiled. And everybody marvelled when they saw the great love of the father for his child.

Child: What is the reading (story) saying to us?



Leader: We now make our prayers. We ask God to bless, look after, help, etc.

(Invite all to ask God for something).

We thank God for many things, especially.....

(Invite all to share a prayer of thanksgiving).

Final Prayer

Leader: O God, from whom we come, to whom we go, enlighten our minds and hearts, so that recognising your goodness in our own lives, we may become your goodness. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.





CURRENT COMMENT

PLAYING GOD

When I heard of the recent attempt by Russian scientists to put giant mirrors in space to reflect sunlight into the Arctic Circle, I thought it was a joke! How could anyone go to such measures to interfere with the natural balance of the earth? Sadly, it wasn't a joke. Just imagine the knock-on effect upsetting the balance of light and darkness in the region would have. There's a whole ecosystem of life, perfectly balanced, which survives in that region just because of the natural cycle of light and darkness, heat and cold, that exists there.

Global warming is a fact of life now, and we are not going to see it redressed in our lifetime. But, I must be naive to think that scientists had learned any lessons from it.

Our Earth is the most precious possession we have, and we are the most precious beings on it. Anyone who is aware of all the new growth and rebirth at this time of the year cannot fail to wonder at the beauty and miracle that is Nature.

Nature isn't perfect. All climates are not ideal. All fruit and vegetables are not perfectly formed. None of us is perfect. That's the way it's meant to be. Maybe in the next millennium scientists will appreciate that, and stop trying to play God.

Ruth

MEDITATION

Recently, Fr. Finbarr shared with us his way of finding stillness and quiet in the hectic world he lives in: namely, by walking along the deserted beach, "Alone with none but thee, my God."

We in the Parish Meditation Group invite you to join us in our journey towards that same "still point" within, and so attain that harmony and unity so beloved of the psalmist when he urged us to "Be still, and know that I am God".

We meditate every Thursday in the C.P. Centre from 7.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.



Church of the Holy Spirit

ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

The Sacraments:

Changing Signs for Changing Times?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday
23 rd February | <i>The Sacraments yesterday, today and forever: an Overview</i>
Fr. Tom Clancy |
| Tuesday
2 nd March | <i>Reconciliation</i>
<i>One is sorry because one has been forgiven; one is not forgiven because one is sorry.</i>
Fr. Tom Clancy |
| Tuesday
9 th March | <i>Marriage:</i>
<i>Redundant or Renewed?</i>
Fr. Tom Clancy |
| Tuesday
23 rd March | <i>The Sacrament of Healing for the Sick</i>
Fr. Seán O'Driscoll |

Venue: The Crypt, Church of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross

Time: 8 p.m.

All Welcome



THINGS TO REMEMBER

Lenten Services

The season of Lent commences next Wednesday 17th.

Ash Wednesday

A day of fast and abstinence. Masses at 7.30, 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Weekdays of Lent

Masses 9.00, 10.00 and 7.30 p.m.

Gael scoil Uí Riada

wishes to invite all our friends to celebrate the building of our new school and the launch of our major fundraising project for the Sports Hall with Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, on Friday 19th February at 8.30 p.m. in S.M.A. Parish Hall. Bar facilities provided, ceol and bia den chead scoth. Beidh an gabhar a rostadh!

OUR SYMPATHIES

We offer our sincere sympathy to JIM BOWEN, Kenley Drive, on the death of his brother.
To TONY LONG, Kenley Avenue, on the death of his father.

Bulletins to the Homes

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

Painting Classes

Run by the V.E.C. for older people will re-commence on Thursday 18th February at 2.30 p.m. in the Crypt.

Psychiatric Nursing

The Southern Health Board invites people over 23 years of age who would be interested in psychiatric nursing as a career to contact Michael Cottrell, Chief Nursing Officer at 922579, or Harry Gijbels, Principal Tutor at 903540. Closing date for applications is 19/2/99.

Readings for Sunday 21 February

Gen. 2:7-9. 3:1-7. Ps. 50.
Rom. 5:12-19. Mt. 4:1-11.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940

A COFFEE MORNING

WILL BE HELD AT
NO. 9 DEAN STREET

ON SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
FROM 10.30AM TO 1.00PM

CAKES AND PLANTS FOR SALE

PROCEEDS TO
ST. FIN BARRE'S BEYOND 2000