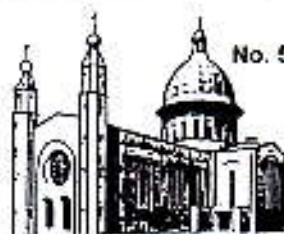




Sunday 14th March 1999

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent



No. 585

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Sr. Ursula writes

When we discard the fables, details of St. Patrick's life are scant. We know him best from his own writings. The Confessions of St. Patrick which I have just re-read is considered a spiritual classic. In it he introduces himself as "I Patrick a sinner" and continues "I was a stone lying in a deep mire and he that is mighty came and in his mercy lifted me up." Patrick discovers his own weakness and in it also discovers the starting-place of true prayer. The man we meet was a man of incredible spiritual depth - truly a great man of prayer.

By his own admission he was not particularly well educated. In his youth he knew little of the faith, and few prayers, but he prayed over and over again. This was his salvation. His faith grew stronger, he tells us, and his love and reverence for God began to increase. Patrick records his escape from slavery in Ireland in terms of prayer. He was attacked by forces of evil, but like St. Paul he sees the Spirit of God praying within him and protecting him. Finally he returns home safely and is made welcome by family and friends.

In a dream God calls him through the Voice of Victorinus and like Abraham he is prepared to "leave his own people and his father's house" and return to bring faith to pagan Ireland. His path to glory leads by way of the cross. Patrick tells us of his struggles. He suffered many bitter trials - humiliations, frustrations, betrayal of trust even by his closest friend, rejection of his mission and calumny as a Bishop. It was all part of the seed falling into the ground. It dies, but it bears much fruit.

There are many parallels with the Church in Ireland today. May all of us, priests and people, continue like St. Patrick to pray with confidence:

"Christ before me.
Christ behind me.
Christ within me."



The final extract from Bishop Buckley's letter to the dioceses:

"My dear people, I am asking you, like Andrew in the gospel 'who brought Peter to Jesus', to introduce people to Jesus. Many are just waiting for an invitation from us. We should tell our brothers and sisters

that they are missed, that the Lord loves them, and that we will all be enriched when they take their place at the table that the Lord has prepared for them, and where they will experience an atmosphere of friendship and of welcome. The Church has always been a refuge for the weak, and not a home for the perfect."

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): One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The

second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-32

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

Reader (Child): Can you imagine what it would be like if you could not see? Close your eyes really tight, and imagine what it would be like if you could not see anything. Tell Jesus how you feel about that. Maybe you can even show or tell Jesus some of the things you would miss, things you like seeing now. Just let Jesus know how happy you are that you can see.



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: Rescue us, Lord, from those destructive places in our minds where darkness dispels all light, where accusation reigns and blinds us to goodness. Cleanse our minds and hearts so that we can always recognize what is of you in ourselves and in every situation. We ask you this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Deaths

We pray for the late Elizabeth Rogers of Farranlea Park who died recently. She was a native of the famous seaside resort of Enniscrone, Co. Sligo, of which she was very proud. A family member described her as someone who "had an open door welcome, and put everything she had into giving the best quality of life to her family." Elizabeth could be described as a person who had a most active and alert mind which she put into practise in any conversation. To her family we offer our sympathy and prayers.

We pray for Mrs. Elizabeth O'Donoghue of Sheares Park who died recently. Even though she was in her 92nd year, she lived a full life until a few weeks before her death. Indeed, on the day before her final illness she had attended the Friendship Club at the S.M.A. Wilton. For almost 60 years, St. Joseph's had been the focus of her life of deep faith and service to the community which included many years of dedicated work in Meals on Wheels. To her sons, Pat and John (Junior) and a wide circle of family and friends, we extend our deepest sympathies. May she rest in peace.

THANK YOU

St. Mary's School, Rochestown, would like to thank those who contributed to their collection recently, proceeds of which go towards the provision of classroom materials and activities.

IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to KITTY DILLON, Orchard Road, on the death of her grandson.

To VAL TURNBULL, Court Cairn, on the death of his father.

To the CRONIN FAMILY, DONAL, KATHLEEN and MARGARET, Sheares Park, on the death of their brother Patrick.

To BETTY O'HALLORAN, Cherrygrove, on the death of her sister.

To DAN COUGHLAN, Magazine Road, on the death of his sister.

LOVE IS FOREVER

"God is as present to you in your marriage as he is in the Eucharist" Fr. Clancy promised in the third of his talks on the Sacraments. In a wide-ranging and inspiring talk on Marriage he described how we are enabled and challenged to make a covenant with each other, an image of God's relationship with his people, of his unconditional love forever. The consequence of God's loving us is a realisation that we are capable of fidelity, capable of greatness, capable of living up to God's ideal: we don't have to settle for less. God is also with those couples, regardless of official status, who are living sincerely and with integrity.

The series of Lenten lectures on the Sacraments organised by the Adult Education committee concludes on Tuesday 23rd March, when Fr. Sean O'Driscoll, former chaplain at Cork University Hospital, discusses the Sacrament of Healing for the Sick.

Rosalie Moloney



St. Patrick's Day

There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. Masses on Wednesday at 9.00, 10.30 and 12.15 p.m. **No Mass at 7.30 p.m.**

Bulletins to Homes

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

FOLD

The March issue is on sale this week-end. Items include:

- * Report from the work of Cork Marriage Counselling Centre.
- * Feature on Little Sisters of the Assumption.
- * Photo feature of the launch of the Cathedral Draw.
- * Report on visit to Somalia.
- * Beginning Experience - a group which helps bereaved people following death or separation.

Information on Priesthood

Bishop Buckley is organising an 'Information Day on being a Priest in Cork & Ross'. Leaving Cert. students, college students and young men are invited to attend on Saturday 27th March at St. Dominic's, Montenotte, from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m. Further information from Fr. Noel O'Sullivan, 503116.

Goal Project

Transition year students will sell St. Patrick's Day Goal badges outside the church this weekend on behalf of charities Goal and Aidlink.

Cork Marriage Counselling Centre

A programme for parents who are about to or who have separated will be held at 34 Paul Street on Wednesday 24th March at 6.15 p.m. Early booking is advisable. For booking or further information please ring 275678.

Cathedral Renovation Fund

Monster Draw

Details in Church Porch. Forms - tickets available in C.P. Centre after weekend Masses.

Sli na Slainte

A walk will take place on the Lee Fields this Sunday 14th at 2.30 p.m. commencing opposite County Hall and finishing at Sacred Heart Church, organised by the Irish Heart Foundation to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Readings for Sunday 21 March

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

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations and well done to the Senior A Hockey Team who came second in the All Ireland Finals in Galway on Tuesday 9th March.

'No More War' the winning entry in the National Song Contest for Peace, held at the Everyman Theatre on Sunday 7th March, was backed by Mount Mercy Leaving Cert. pupils - Aine Ryan, Mary Whelan, Emer Daly, Laura O'Sullivan, Neasa Ní Dhonnabháin, Ciara O'Connell, Regina Cremin and Aoife Clancy.

On 5th March the Fifth Year Religion classes and their teachers attended an Ecumenical Service in the Church of the Real Presence to celebrate Women's World Day of Prayer.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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