

Sunday 9th May 1999



No. 593

Ballineaspig Bulletin

Sixth Sunday of Easter



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENEHY'S CROSS, CORK

THE KOSOVO COLLECTION

FROM WIDOW'S 'MITE'

TO

£10,200

The first contribution to the collection was from a housebound widow pensioner who gave her entire week's pension. It was a generous and fruitful seed. For all the generous contributions,, we give thanks.



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

"WHAT WILL THESE YOUNG PEOPLE BE?"

It is Wednesday as I write. Thursday will see our final parish Confirmation ceremony of the Millennium. Friday, I hope to spend in Gougane Barra with 90 transition year students on a pilgrimage retreat day. Both occasions hopefully will be worthwhile and enriching for the young people involved. For me, I see them as sacred and privileged moments, pregnant with the unlimited possibilities of youth, tinged with the anxious reservations of middle age. To paraphrase a gospel question, "What will these young people be?"

Confirmation is a formal commitment to membership of the faith community with a promise of service to the neighbour and of witness to a Jesus life style. For many transition year students, generous service to those in need may be their only link with their Confirmation. For many, the link with the praying faith community has become very frayed if not broken with enormous loss to both. A life style inspired by gospel values seems to them to belong to another millennium. For some, the probability is that Confirmation may be the sacrament of exit from the Church rather than one of taking ownership and responsibility for God's gifts to his people in Jesus.

A crucial challenge for the new millennium for people and priests will be to evoke creative initiatives that will enable the young to choose the Jesus option against all the odds. To respond

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PARISH PRIEST WRITES
(Continued)

to this challenge is to believe that nothing is impossible to God and to trust in His promise of being always with us until the end of time.

Have we the wisdom, courage, understanding and energy to undertake the task? Nobody else can do it for us. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh upon us.

Tom Lelaney

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Congratulations and well done to Niamh O'Mahony, 2nd year, who came second in the Salters Chemistry Club Wordsearch Competition, run in the U.K. and Ireland.

At cool of day, with God I walk
my garden's grateful shade;
I hear his voice among the trees
and I am not afraid. *Chinese proverb*

**THE PLANT-HUNTING PRIESTS
OF CHINA**

Catholic missionaries were responsible for introducing many plant species into Europe. A surprising number of our garden plants originated from China and arrived here as specimens sent home by Jesuit priests.

Jean-Marie Delavayi, a Jesuit, spent 13 years in South China fulfilling his duties (which included negotiations for the ransome of Amanite women who were been captured by pirates!) and collecting plants. He managed to discover more worthwhile garden plants than any other botanist, including 34 varieties of rhododendrons.

Missionary activity surged forward in China bringing with it more plant-hunting priests. Among them was Armand David, a Lazarist who studied natural sciences in Geneva. Known as Pere David, his contribution to botany was exceptional - he found 1,577 new plants, 250 species and 10 or 11 new genera!



Plants discovered by Catholic missionaries to China in the eighteenth century. From top, Incarvillea delavayi, handkerchief tree and Buddleia davidii.



THE ANGELUS - MARY'S PRAYER

The Angelus prayer is a story prayer that finds an echo in every Christian's life with its invitation, response and prayer of faith.

An Invitation

It was an angel brought God's call to a praying Mary to give Christ to the world. It was through the Holy Spirit that the work was done.

God's call to us is a daily one through the circumstances of life; we discern it especially at prayer. It is the same spirit of God at work in us that brings God's kingdom of peace and justice to the world.

A PENTECOST INVITATION

All parishioners Confirmed this year, here or in other churches, are invited to join together for the 10.30 a.m. Mass on Pentecost Sunday 23rd May, 1999, with their families and friends, to thank the Lord for the gift of his confirming Spirit and to ask for a new outpouring of God's blessing upon us all through the gift that you, young people, are to this parish.



We offer our sincere sympathy to NANCY CREED, 1 Melbourn Court, on the death of her brother in England.

SIN IS A FAILURE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Car parking in some urban areas is often restricted time-wise to an hour or two. The restriction has bred a new skill. It is the ability to judge exactly how long over the prescribed time one can stay and still avoid the punishing fine of the traffic warden. There is a temptation to see God as a heavenly traffic warden, seeing him as one ready to pounce when we step out of line and seeing ourselves as harassed humans calculating how far we can go without incurring divine punishment. To see sin as a traffic offence is to reduce redemption to paying a fine, albeit, a hefty one.

Sin is a failure in our relationship with God. It happens when we choose something that we know will damage that relationship. Redemption is opening the lines of communication with God so that we may enjoy his forgiveness.



*To love our neighbour
in charity
is to love
God in man.*

St. Francis de Sales

Annie



Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 10th in C.P. Centre at 8.10 p.m.

Bulletins to Homes

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

Catholic Papers

Are you as informed as you could be on Christian issues? Why not bring a Catholic paper into your home every week? Available at back of church after 6.15 p.m. Mass every Saturday and in Newsbox in church grounds after Sunday Masses at 9.00, 10.30 and 12.15.



Friends of Saint Patrick's Hospital
and Marymount Hospice Cork

Marymount Hospice is a Specialist Palliative Care Unit. Based at St. Patrick's Hospital, the hospice provides skilled medical, nursing and spiritual care for patients with serious and advanced illness and their families. The hospice is staffed by a specialist team and is under the care of the Sisters of Charity.

In addition to a 24 bed in-patient unit, the hospice also offers care and support to those patients who choose to be cared for in their own homes. Working in close liaison with community based medical and nursing services, hospice based nurses will visit patients in their own homes. This service is designed to complement the skills and the resources of the patient's own family doctor and other community based health care professionals. Other services available at Marymount include a Hospice Day Unit and Outpatients Assessment Unit.

Friends of St. Patrick's Hospital and Marymount Hospice, affiliated to the Irish Hospice Foundation, are a voluntary group who raise funds to enhance the hospital and to benefit the patients. They meet on the second Monday of each month. Their major fundraising events are Sunflower Days and "Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning".



Open Garden Week '99

Saturday 15th May - Saturday 22nd May

The Friends are sponsoring an **OPEN GARDEN WEEK** from Saturday 15th May to Saturday 22nd May. Diary of events and all the details can be seen in the church porch.

Readings for Sunday 16 May

Acts 1:1-11. Ps.46. Eph.1:17-23.
Mt.28:16-20.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940