

Sunday 23rd May 1999



No. 595

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DUBLIN

Ballineaspais Bulletin

Pentecost Sunday



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Finbarr writes

It is customary when one celebrates a birthday or a special occasion, that others celebrate it with you. This Sunday we celebrate our parish feast, the Feast of Pentecost. Other years we have had novenas or tridiums, even flower festivals and exhibitions. So you may well ask, what are we doing this year?

This Sunday we have invited all young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year to the celebration of the 10.30 a.m. Mass. Why, you may ask? The Sacrament of Confirmation most of us have received is one that we should all celebrate, because we are proclaiming publicly our commitment to be followers of Jesus Christ, and the presence of those recently confirmed is a reminder to all of us of that commitment.

We pray for our young people, that they may be blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives. To pray for others is a most Christian way to celebrate. So, let us pray, let us celebrate!

MEMORIES OF FIRST COMMUNION DAY 15th May, 1999

"I felt very special receiving the bread of life for the first time."

Orla O'Connor

"The best part of my Communion Day was sharing a special meal with my family."

Tracy Ryan

"I got the Bread of Life off of Father Tom."

Kelly Quilligan

"I enjoyed celebrating twice that day. It was my Dad's birthday as well as my Communion Day."

Holly

"What I liked best about my Communion is dressing up and getting the Bread of Life."

Emer O'Callaghan

"My Communion Day was very special for me because I got to do the actions of the Our Father with my two friends on the altar."

Fiona Curtin

"The thing I remember most is receiving the Bread of Life and getting a present from the hotel I went to."

Orla O'Callaghan

"I enjoyed singing on the altar for Jesus and I enjoyed bringing up the gifts for the offertory procession."

Kate Hickey

"The thing I liked most was getting the Bread of Life and I liked going to Trabolgan too and

doing my reading. I had a lot of fun that day."

Claire

On Saturday May 15th, fifty-one names, each in the form of a candle and together forming two large cardboard candles, were placed at either side of the Sanctuary. On top of the reredos, fifty-one night lights represented the fifty-one children about to receive their First Holy Communion.

The children walked up the centre aisle in perfect formation and at the altar rails each pair bowed to Fr. Clancy who was waiting for them and who, with loving attention, returned their greeting.

Fr. Clancy reminded us of the very special day and he asked that we hold the child in our hearts. The children sang the opening hymn, 'Jesus is with Us Today'.

In his sermon Fr. Clancy recalled the simple and central act of Jesus on the night of the Last Supper. This day of First Communion is one of renewal and forgiveness. He asked that today we make one promise to the child - that nothing will stop us bringing the child to Jesus.

Having received Holy Communion the children went to the Sanctuary and sang, with appropriate action, 'See this Little Light of Mine'.

It was a ceremony of great beauty and love, helped considerably by the singers of third class. We owe great gratitude to the teachers and Fr. Clancy who prepared our First Communicants

Rest In Peace

We pray for Ursula O'Callaghan, late of Orchard Road, who died recently. Ursula hadn't been well for the past number of years, but despite her ill-health and difficulty of movement, she made every possible effort to attend weekly Mass. She spent most of her adult life working as a doctor in England. She was lovingly cared for by her sister Eileen, and we offer her our sympathy.

We pray for Eddie Beechinor, late of Bishopstown Road, who died recently. Eddie was a former employee of Irish Steel, but will be well-known to many for the great work he did with the local St. Vincent de Paul Society in this parish. His faithfulness to those who were less fortunate than himself is only known to those people and Eddie himself. Eddie's great love was that to his wife Betty and nine children, their spouses and families. We offer Betty and family our prayers and sympathy.

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. This week we conclude our series on the Angelus.

Prayers of Faith

'The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.' Our prayer of faith adds nothing to God's greatness but makes us grow in



his grace. In the bustle of everyday living, we need to focus on the wonder of God sharing our human nature to enable us to share his.

The Angelus bell from church, radio, TV, is an invitation to be renewed in our glory as brothers and sisters of Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. The Angelus confirms us in our vision of God. It can be the breath of fresh air to tone up our attitudes and values amidst the trappings of the day. It is an invitation to renew our response to God in prayer of faith, hope and love.

MOUNT MERCY NEWS

Young Enterprise Europe Examination Awards 1999

Congratulations and well done to Laura Power, 4th year, who obtained 1st place in Ireland in the Finance/Accounting Category of the University of Cambridge and Oxford Local Delegacy Examinations. The award ceremony will take place on Tuesday 25th May.

Amnesty

Mount Mercy was one of just three schools in Cork City & County to be presented with a framed copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The presentation was made by the Cork Branch of Amnesty International in recognition of the work done by students. Sixty senior students regularly write letters on behalf of people suffering human rights abuses.

Trocaire

Trocaire have sent a certificate to the school acknowledging the £2,000 raised by students during the Lenten fast.

PENTECOST - A NON-EVENT?

For most of us Pentecost is a non-event. While on secular calendars Christmas and Easter are still marked, Pentecost is spectacularly absent.

But Pentecost is the coming of the Spirit of Jesus into the world. It is the celebration of God breaking through the boundaries of time and space and opening the whole world for the re-creating power of love. Pentecost is freedom, the freedom of the Spirit to blow where it wants.

Without Pentecost the Christ-event - the life, death and resurrection of Jesus - remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about, and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now. Pentecost lifts the whole mystery of salvation out of its particularities and makes it into something universal, embracing all people, all countries, all seasons, and all eras. Pentecost is also the moment of empowering. Each individual human being can claim the Spirit of Jesus as the guiding spirit of his or her life. In that Spirit we can speak and act freely and confidently with the knowledge that the same Spirit that inspired Jesus is inspiring us.

We certainly have to prepare ourselves carefully for this feast so that we can not only receive fully the gifts of the spirit but also let the Spirit bear fruit within us.

- Henri Nouwen



INTERFAITH SERVICE OF THE WORD
Wednesday 26th May
in Church Crypt at 8.00 p.m.

To mark our parish feast, Pentecost, we are holding a Neighbourhood Prayer Service. All Christian Churches share a common faith in the Holy Spirit living in us and among us. To share and celebrate this faith, our service on Wednesday next will be shared by ministers of several churches and by people of all denominations. The preacher will be Rev. Ken Todd (Methodist).

Our intention here is that parishioners who have neighbours or friends among other Christian denominations would invite them to accompany themselves to Wednesday's service. Join us.

Diocesan Mission to Peru/Ecuador
The annual collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.



Cathedral Car Draw

Please note that the first draw scheduled for this weekend has been deferred to Thursday 22nd July when all three draws will take place.

U.N. Year of Older People

Members of the Thursday Art Class in the Crypt are holding an exhibition of their work at the Imperial Hotel on Thursday 27th May from 10.00 to 4.30 p.m. All very welcome to view.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Annual church-gate collection on weekend 29th/30th May.

Parkway/Leesdale Sports Day

Sports Day for all on Sunday 30th May at 12 noon on the main green in Leesdale. All help welcome. Please contact Henry Cremin.

Can You Help?

Volunteers urgently needed to pack boxes of supplies for transport to Kosovo. Call to Harringtons Bakery, Churchfield. Warehouse open all day and evening.

Early School Leavers

A Business Studies Day Course for adults starts each September in Terence MacSwiney Community College, Knocknaheeny, 9.00-1.00, Monday to Friday. No entry requirements, any age participation. Further information at Holyhill Youth Centre (beside Supervalu in Knocknaheeny) on Tuesday 25th May at 11 a.m. or phone Clare Hunt at 397740.

Summer Outing

Bishopstown Social Services annual outing takes place to West Cork on Thursday 27th May. Tickets available from Nora Harrington 546358 or Michael Haydon 541638.

I.C.A. Bishopstown Guild

Meeting of the Guild will take place in S.M.A. Hall on Thursday 27th May. Recci Demonstration at 8 p.m. New members very welcome.

Readings for Sunday 30 May

Ex.34:4-6.8-9. Ps. Dan.3.
Cor 13:11-13. Jn.3:16-18.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940