

Sunday 6th June 1999



Ballineaspais Bulletin

The Body & Blood of Christ



No. 597

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK.



OUR
**PARISH
PRIEST**
writes

Celebration is an essential part of family life. It nourishes appreciation of the self-giving care, forgiveness and joy that bind us together in love. Some families are more enthusiastic than others about celebrating. They do it at the drop of a hat. Other families only get together for occasional anniversaries, weddings and funerals. Without community celebration, family ties wilt and die, often very quickly. To cut oneself off from such get-togethers is to live deprived of the acceptance, the bonding, the sharing of burdens and of happiness that is the stuff of satisfying human living.

While there are several occasional celebrations, the focus gathering for the Christian family is the weekly Eucharist. It is our opportunity to acknowledge our common heritage as the beloved of God, children of the one Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The core of this weekly celebration is a community sharing in the total self-giving of one of the family, Jesus, who opens the way for us to share in the life God through faith and service. As is true of all

family gatherings, some are less enthusiastic about making the effort to be present or to participate fully, but missing loved ones impoverish every celebration as we can never truly celebrate alone.

On this feast of Corpus Christi, we give thanks not only for the Mass itself but for the ever present blessing of Jesus through his Eucharistic presence throughout the day and throughout the week. Let us commit ourselves today as a family to renewed enthusiasm for and appreciation of our weekly Eucharist through full participation and through inviting along a friend who may have been missing out on these family occasions.

CALLED TO SERVE AT HIS SUPPER

One of the major changes of the Modern Church has been the introduction of Lay Ministers of the Eucharist. When first introduced most Catholics were astonished and some of the criticism levelled and openly spoken of was quite hurtful. Thankfully this has all changed and Ministers of the Eucharist are now accepted as a normal part of the Church.

Members of the parish, young and old, are usually asked by their Parish Priest or Curate if they would like to become

Ministers. After their acceptance they undergo a series of instruction and finally are commissioned to serve for a limited period.

What are the thoughts of former and existing Ministers? It is well nigh impossible to adequately put into words what it really means to the persons appointed. When one considers we are given as the theme for all our Eucharistic devotions "Lord I am not worthy", that any words which are genuinely in our minds and hearts are difficult to express. The writer, who has been a Minister for quite a number of years, is of the opinion that the moment of his giving of the Body of Christ to the communicant and their response of the Amen, is of the greatest significance of what has happened. You have joined with the communicant in a unique ceremony and you are most aware of its solemnity and joyfulness.

I append thoughts of other Ministers.

Des

"I am privileged to have the honour of bringing Our Lord to people in hospital and at daily Mass. I feel I am making the task of busy priests a little easier."

Mary

"I know I don't deserve to be a Minister, but it does make me very happy. The prayer before Communion in the Mass says 'Happy are those who are called to His Supper'. I am happier still to be called to serve at His Supper."

Carmel

"To bring Communion to the sick

is a great privilege and I still remember at least one occasion with emotion. I'm no longer on a rota, but I'm still pleased when a regular Minister asks me to deputise."

Joe

"It is one of the greatest privileges to distribute the Body of Christ. It is an awesome and most rewarding experience."

Bill

"I feel it is a great privilege. Quite recently I have been asked to bring Communion to a friend and this has made me even more aware of the meaning of the ministry."

Doris

"At first I felt apprehensive and unworthy, but every step I take restores that confidence and peace of heart that comes from knowing that we are always in the hands of God. I thank him for being given this day, being a more thoughtful person, a more generous person."

Bernard



Rest in Peace

We pray for Katie O'Donovan, College Road, who died recently. Katie lived on College Road for most of her life and her death was a cause of great sadness to her neighbours who knew her for over sixty years. She will be remembered for her gentleness and thoughtfulness to all who came in contact with her. To her relatives and friends we offer our sympathy.



IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to Sr. Brendan Cronin, St. Joseph's Convent, Model Farm Road, on the death of her sister.

The Body and Blood of Christ

Recently, on a truly beautiful evening, I stopped at a roadside church in Kerry to pray evening prayer. The peace and the quiet helped me to enjoy God's presence. Suddenly, the silence was broken by the arrival of a busload of foreign tourists. Cameras clicked and coins jingled in the shrine boxes. After few minutes, silence returned as the visitors rejoined their bus. There was just one elderly man left standing before the altar. He turned towards me and spoke slowly and solemnly.

"Treasure what you have, Father. For many years now I have lived far from any church or Christian community. It is difficult to keep God's love alive in one's heart on one's own and without the Eucharist. Treasure it."

The horn in the bus hooted angrily and he was gone. I was left to ponder the wonder of God's presence in the Eucharist. He is present to us to help us to be present to him. The opportunity to be present to each other in friendship and worship is a gift of a great God.

Today we say thanks for the gift of the Body of Christ, Corpus Christi.

- Preaching the Word

Pentecost 1999

"Receive the Holy Spirit"

Over eighty people attended a special Neighbourhood Inter-faith Service on Wednesday 26th May. The parishioners of Dean Michael Jackson of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, Rev. Ken Todd of the Methodist Church, Ardfallen and the Rev. John Faris, Trinity Presbyterian Church joined Fr. Clancy and Dean O'Connor and the people of Ballineaspig to celebrate our shared belief in the Holy Spirit.

For a short hour the Crypt became the Upper Room as the story of Pentecost unfolded in reading, prayer and song. In a deceptively simple homily on John 20: 19-23, Rev. Ken Todd explored the images of Christ presented in the passage: the wounded Christ, the reassuring Christ, the commissioning Christ and the liberating Christ. After the lighting of the Peace Candle we were movingly invited to bless each other where we sat. In the serene, reflective atmosphere created in the Crypt it was easy to believe in the words of the final hymn: "He binds us all in unity". I hope the service will become an annual event.

A footnote. For me the evening ended on a challenging note. Amidst the happy chatter over the cup of tea, I realised with a sense of shame that it was far easier to take refuge in helping with the mugs and biscuits than to sit and talk with the people from the other churches. Never before did I feel so keenly the dilemma of Martha and Mary. Please God, there will be other occasions to make amends.

Rosalie Maloney



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

We ask God's blessing on our pilgrims who are going to Lourdes next Friday.

Heavenly Father, you have shown your love for us by giving us Jesus to be our way to you. Guide our friends as they begin this journey. Bless them with peace and joy as they travel, and bring them home safely. We ask this grace through Jesus, our brother and our Lord. Amen.

Corpus Christi Procession

A reminder that parishioners will leave the churchyard at 3pm. today to walk in procession to the Grand Parade.

St. Finn Barre's Cathedral

A Festival of Flowers will be held from 10th - 13th June, proceeds to Cathedral restoration fund, SHARE and Mercy Hospital children's leukemia ward. Admission £3, senior citizens £2. Thursday 10th: Preview Supper at 6.30pm. followed by Official Launch. Admission by ticket only. Friday 11th: Viewing 10-6pm. Concert by Pro Musica chamber orchestra at 8pm. Adm. to concert £5.

Saturday 12th: Viewing 10-8pm.

Sunday 13th: Viewing 1.30-5pm.

Closing Service (evensong) at 7pm.

Preacher Most Rev. Walton Empey, Archbishop of Dublin.

Bishopstown I.C.A.

Meeting will take place in S.M.A. Hall on Thursday 10th June. Crafts demonstration at 8pm. New members welcome.

Access to Education

In July a programme will run at Colaiste Stiofáin Naofa for adults over 21 years who are in receipt of unemployment payments or credits for at least six months, lone parents and recipients of disability allowance. All benefits are retained and the course is free of charge to those entitled to benefits. A public meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th June at 3pm. at the College on Tramore Road. Apply now to Bertie Óg Murphy at 961020/961029.

ST. CATHERINE'S NEWS

Our camogie team had a great run in the Sciath na Scol competition. Having beaten Passage, Greenmount, Knocknaheeny and Youghal, we met our match in Watergrasshill. Our girls put up a gallant struggle against a much stronger side, and had to be content with runners-up medals on the day. It was our first time to reach the final in four years, and our supporters and cheerleaders did a superb job in getting behind the team. As so many of our panel are only in 5th class, we are confident of reaching the final in the year 2000, and next time we hope to lift the cup!

Our school sports will take place on Thursday 10th June. We look forward to a great day of fun and games!

Readings for Sunday 13 June

Ex. 19:2-6. Ps.99. Rom.5:6-11.

Mt. 9:36-10:8.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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