



# Ballineaspais Bulletin

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DORK



OUR  
**PARISH  
PRIEST**  
*writes*

## FATHER'S DAY.

Niamh is a great four year old explorer. She constantly pushes out the boundaries towards new horizons. While her young brother and cousins continue to address Grandad traditionally, Niamh occasionally ventures to call him Sean and then she casts her eyes about to assess how her initiative is being received. She seems to realise intuitively that the name we use to address another expresses how we perceive our relationship and, indeed, conditions that relationship. (Niamh is aspiring to adult equality!).

Jesus was very aware of the significance of a name when he taught his Jewish peers to call God, Abba, Father. A feature of Jewish religious custom was extreme reverence for the Lord of all creation. Indeed, when Moses had enquired about how to speak of God, the guidance he got was to use the title "I am who am" to highlight the eternal one who is the source of every good gift. But Jesus wanted to enrich our understanding of God and our appreciation of the inner life of God. To prepare us to

share in this divine relationship, he spoke of himself as Son of the Father. Obviously, his own human experience of fatherhood through Joseph, his foster father, must have been extremely good. Jesus gradually realised that the human experience could be a window through which we could glimpse at the relationships between the persons in the Trinity and at God's relationship to us. So increasingly, throughout his life, Jesus spoke of God as His Father and our Father. Despite its limitations, it is an image that facilitates our appreciation of how God loves us.

Fathers' Day is an opportunity to renew our relationships with human fathers and to touch base again with God our Father to whom this pre-millennium year is dedicated.



Vincent Irwin

## PARISHIONERS' REFLECTIONS ON FATHER'S DAY

### FATHER'S LOVE -

#### UNCONDITIONAL

The public telephones of maternity hospitals are wonderful places for fathers. They announce to the world "it's a boy" or "it's a girl". For unto us a child is born. Such daddys are pretty innocent people, but they are on a steep learning curve. They thought they were busy people up to this moment but they soon realise that most of what they were doing was unimportant. Within a few years they have had more emotional highs and anxieties than they hitherto thought possible. The one constant feature is love.

Perhaps the gréatest tribute our children pay us is to take our love for granted. They are

so certain of continual forgiveness and so sure that the pieces will be picked up that they can confidently leave them lying about. By being gifted to be givers of unconditional love we get a glimpse, if we stop to see, of the love of God the Father. Fathers can prophetically inform the world that there is nothing to fear because they have an idea of the love of the father. Maybe He doesn't mind being taken for granted most of the time either!

In every father God demonstrates to all people that we are co-creator, nurturer of creation, loved with eternity's love, blessed with insights and wisdom for our difficult moments, and safe.

Happy Fathers' Day.

P.R.

### MY DAD

My Dad is dead, but  
he is not altogether gone.  
He lives on in love.  
Wherever I see love  
in beauty,  
kindness,  
care.  
When someone says,  
"I knew your Dad, he was such a  
lovely man."  
Then he still lives.  
He still loves.  
For God is love.



### I HEARD A CHILD CALL "DAD"!

Recently I was waiting in the airport to collect a visiting friend. The flight was delayed, and as I strolled aimlessly around I heard a child call "Dad!". Instinctively, I turned in the direction of the call, even though I must have known that my children were not with me on that occasion.

I thought to myself that while any adult male can be a father, not every father enjoys fatherhood, only those who have responded time out of number to the cry from a loved one - "Dad!".

F.M.



## ALTERNATIVE SLANT

BY "RUTH"

### PLEASE THINK TWICE

For one who, for whatever reason, cannot be a father, the hype that surrounds Fathers' Day can bring the pain of childlessness into sharper focus.

The childless couple feel cheated by God. They are denied the opportunity to bestow the love they have in their hearts on a child of their own. They are aware of many unwanted pregnancies, and think how unfair it is that they can't have their own baby.

They have to suffer insensitive comments (although often well-meant) and find themselves excluded from many conversations and activities in which they would dearly love to take part.

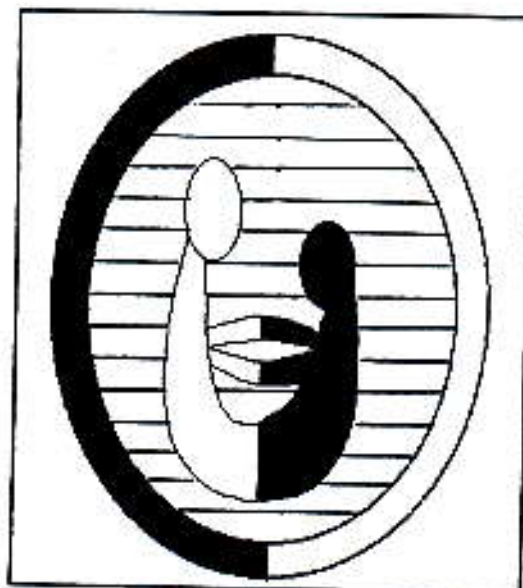
They get good at disguising their pain. It's very much a hidden subject, but the pain is always there.

So, next time you are about to make a "witty" comment, please, think twice, and don't hurt!

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#### Communion Reflection Hymn

Let the size of your God be the size of your dreams. Take your strength from your Father, heavenly Father, Father of love.



This drawing symbolizes the love between fathers and their children - a love that is lived every day by fathers throughout the world.

The large white figure represents the father and the small black figure represents the child. The two figures are bound together, which shows the love between them.

I chose the colours black and white to show the different races of people and to highlight that colour is irrelevant where love is concerned. The equal contours in the circle represent equality.

The circle indicates the life giving, everlasting love that fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers and future fathers have, had, and will always have for their children.

The outer square with its four corners show the wider world where love is always needed.

Vincent Irwin



### OUR PRAYER TODAY

May those who have loving Fathers with them on Fathers' Day thank God for this great treasure.

May those whose Fathers are no longer on earth honour their love by becoming the best that they can be.

May those for whom today brings pain or hurt because of memories of childhoods destroyed or neglected through selfish, cruel or deficient fathering be healed by the love of God our Father and the understanding and care of those more fortunate.

Remember too those Fathers who are denied the option of 'being there' for their children, those responsible enough to want to share in the forming and nurturing but through circumstances are denied the option.



Happy  
Father's  
Day

## TAKE NOTE

### Pastoral Council

Meeting on Monday 21st June in C.P. Centre at 8.10 p.m.



### Ministers of the Eucharist

Please remember to collect your new rota at altar rails.

### Peters Pence

The annual collection will take place at all Masses next week-end.



### Celtic Sites

Three week computer and heritage educational summer camp for 14 to 17 year olds. Contact Trevor Hussey or Joe Heffernan at 314169/315571.

### Readings for Sunday 27 June

2 K. 4:8-11, 14-16. Ps. 88  
Rom. 6:3-4, 8-11. Mt. 10:37-42.

### EMERGENCY NUMBER

087 - 251 9940