



Sunday 6th February 2000

# Ballinaspais Bulletin

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



No. 621

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, DUBLIN



## FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

*The Dean writes*

A public meeting was held in the Crypt last Monday night. Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll, S.M.A. attended, so also did Ms. Sheila Dillon from Trocaire. They put different topics before us for consideration - Justice in the world and what we can do about it, Slavery, which we thought had been abolished since the American Civil War, Racism - I must admit to guilt feelings on this topic. It is a problem on our doorsteps. It's a subject that needs to be debated in a calm and informed manner. Some people think we ought to bring down the shutters on all immigrants to our country. Strange when you think that so many of our own people had to endure racism and blatant insults because of who they were.

Yes indeed, isn't that exactly what racism is - contempt for others because of who they are - a terrible attitude. It demeans the racist as much as the one who is scorned. Come to think of it, we find it in different forms - towards Travellers, Catholics and Protestants in the North of Ireland. There is another form too which has sprung up and taken root in the past generation. I refer to racism in the media.

There are quite a number who pour scorn and distain on ordinary Irish people just because they are Catholics with traditional values. Of course we are all open to criticism - nobody is perfect. But to pillory people as though they were a shame and embarrassment in the eyes of the world because they stand for certain Christian ideals is unwarranted and horribly wrong.

Everybody has a right to have their dignity respected. Isn't this a basic tenet of our Christianity.

I still think we need to debate this topic - Racism - quietly, reasonably, and with respect for the rights of everybody.



Friday next, 11th February, is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. As you know, Lourdes is forever associated with the sick, and those who care for them. It is a day when our thoughts, and more importantly our prayers, focus on our own who are ill in mind or body. We pray too for carers of the sick at home, and in our hospitals, who do so much for us when we are down, but not out.

## Rest In Peace

Olga Buckley, Liberty Hill, died at Cork University Hospital on 1st February. She had been somewhat unwell for some time, but her death was not expected. Olga devoted her life to the care of her husband, family and grandchildren, and her recreation was caring for her beautiful and extensive garden. She and her husband Tom had been regular attenders at our church over the years, and their daughter Janice had served as a Sunday reader. We offer our very sincere sympathy to Tom, her family - John, Ronnie, Janice, Sandra, Louise and June, her sisters, brothers and grandchildren, as well as her many relatives and friends.



We offer our sincere sympathy to SR. MARY, Poor Clare Convent, on the death of her mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Neville.

### St. Valentine's Mass

Annual Mass to celebrate love and commitment takes place on Monday 14th February at 7.30 p.m. in the North Cathedral. Everyone welcome, especially married and engaged couples - families also welcome. Renew marriage vows, blessing of engagement. More information from Alan and Patricia Murphy at 357571.

Lord, so many things claim our attention and preoccupy us - our work or the lack of it, our security or its elusiveness, our wants that we turn into needs, our recreations that only distract us, our anxieties about our weaknesses. From all these help us to turn aside to be alone with you sometimes each day. Lord teach us to pray.

- Preaching the Word

### Am I a Racist?

This was one of the uncomfortable questions raised for me at the first meeting of the parish Justice Group. An enthusiastic group of parishioners met in the Crypt last Monday to discuss the way forward with Fr. Fachtna O'Driscoll, S.M.A, and Sheila Dillon from Trocaire. Fr. Fachtna promised us that:

- \* we would be working with, not for people
- \* asylum seekers are not so much a problem, as an opportunity
- \* we would be enriched even more than we would give
- \* and that our work, no matter how small, would make a difference.

The group's initial project will involve support for Trócaire's campaign for 2000 - Land for All. Future projects could include lobbying politicians to increase Ireland's national contribution to the developing world, support for the drop-in centre for refugees being developed at St. Maries of the Isle, and a workshop on racism.

Join us at our next meeting on Monday 21st February, and find out for yourself.

Rosalie Moloney





The Poor Clares celebrated the special day for Consecrated Life this great Jubilee year on February 2nd with the Reception Ceremony at 9.00 a.m. of Margaret Sheehan. Her new name in Religion is now Sr. M. Faustina of the Eucharistic King of Divine Mercy. Fr. John Bosco, O.F.M. celebrated the 10.00 a.m. Mass during which the Sisters renewed their vows.

Fr. Tom Clancy, P.P. led Rosary and Benediction at 5.30 p.m. and joined the Sisters with the congregation in the parlour afterwards for a cup of tea.

God reward all who joined us on this special day.

### My Millennium Wish

I wish for something small,  
Its simplicity is plain,  
Though some say it's big and tall,  
It's only a Great Dane.

It's not really that big,  
I'm just that little bit taller.  
It might eat up my little sister  
Because she's a lot smaller.

Though some wish for world peace  
And others an end to pain,  
All I want for now  
Is a big black Great Dane.

By Elaine Lynch

### St. Catherine's News

The school was well represented in the recent Credit Union Regional Quiz final. Laura O'Connor, Alison Brazil, Olivia Flynn and Ciara Walsh from 4th class came first in the junior section. Elaine Rea of 6th class and Elaine Lynch, Una Rea and Aoife Hayes of fifth class came second in the senior section.

The success was well worth the effort put in by students and teachers!

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is a widespread conviction that ours is an insider's society. For some that belief will only be confirmed by today's gospel, where Jesus cures Peter's mother-in-law. They question why she received special treatment when there were many other sick people around pleading for a cure. Put that way, there is no clear-cut answer, but two indicative responses may help. Firstly, God knows best what we need most. Our greatest need may not be the one most obvious even to ourselves. Secondly, everything God gives is pure gift - life, health, love and talent. As we grow into a deeper appreciation of that giftedness of all God's blessings, we will grow into an awareness that all persons are equally precious in God's eyes, that each has a right to share in the earth's resources, that it is wrong to hoard in a shivering and starving world, that our concern must break through the insider ring to create a more just society for all. Painful though this will be, it is the road to lasting peace in the world. Everyone can start on it now.

- Living the Word



### Diocesan Lourdes Collection

Will take place next weekend 12/13 February. The proceeds of this pilgrimage collection go towards subsidising the cost to the large number of helpers, three doctors and some twenty nurses who accompany the invalids and care for them throughout the pilgrimage. The number of invalids who travel is now almost eighty persons. There is a special invalid rate which is paid for by the invalids themselves or sponsored by some agency or individual.

### Art Classes for Seniors

Will resume on Thursday 10th February at 2.30 p.m. in the Crypt. All welcome.

### Oral Irish for Adults

Evening Course at Gaelscoil Uí Riada, Cardinal Way, Wilton, commencing Tuesday 8th February, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. 10 weeks, £25 per person. This course will cater for beginners and those who wish to improve their existing Irish. Registration with School Secretary any day before Friday 4th between 9.00 and 2.30 p.m. Tel. 342027.

### Fine Gael

Model Farm Road branch will hold its next meeting upstairs in Rendezvous Bar, Model Farm Road, at 8.30 p.m. on Monday 7th February. New members will be very welcome.

### I.C.A. Bishopstown Branch

Meeting in S.M.A. Hall, Wilton, on Thursday 10th February at 8 p.m. with a demonstration on crafts. All welcome.

### St. Finbarre's Cathedral

Many thanks for the £1,200 subscription to this collecton.

### Readings for Sunday 13 February

Lev.13:1-2,44-46. Ps. 31  
1 Cor. 10:31-11:1,  
Mk. 1:40-45.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER**

**087 - 251 9940**

### PARISH CALENDAR

Today we touch on the Ulster symbol on the top right-hand corner of the calendar.

### Lough Derg, Shrine of St. Patrick's Bell, Glencolumbkille

For 1500 years pilgrims have been travelling to Lough Derg, a remote stretch of water set in a barren landscape. In the middle of the lake is a small Station Island which is the central location for the pilgrimage known as 'St. Patrick's Purgatory' which takes place between June and mid August. The pilgrimage lasts three days during which time the pilgrims walk barefoot round the 'Penitential Beds' in prayer, and eat only one meal a day of bread and black tea.

A cross of carved stone beckons pilgrims to stop and pray in the remote west Donegal valley of Glencolumbkille which bears the name of St. Columba - in Irish Colmcille. St. Columba was born in Donegal and in 563 set out on pilgrimage for Scotland, where he founded the monastery of Iona.

The Shrine of St. Patrick's Bell dates from the fifteenth century and is now housed in the Ulster Museum, Belfast.