



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

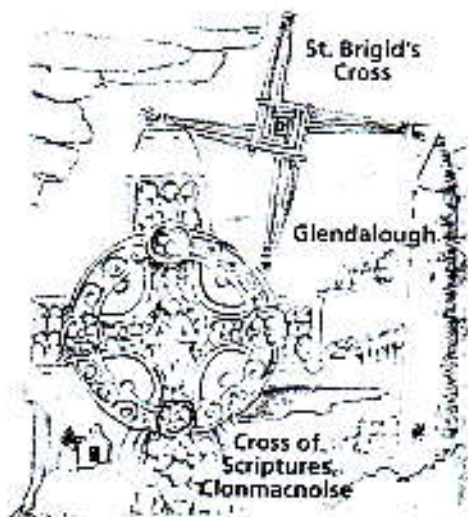
No. 622

Ballinaspaig Bulletin

Sunday 13th February 2000



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENBY'S CROSS, CO. WICK



PARISH CALENDAR

In today's bulletin we explain the Leinster symbol on the bottom left hand corner of the calendar.

St. Brigid's Cross, Glendalough, Cross of Scriptures, Clonmacnoise

St. Brigid was born around AD 453. At fourteen years of age Brigid became a nun and wore a habit of white homespun cloth which became the distinctive dress of Irish nuns for many centuries. Brigid chose the Beatitude 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy', as her guiding prayer throughout her life. Her open-handed generosity and her compassion more than met the needs of those who came for help. Today many homes and schools have a rushwork cross known as St. Brigid's Cross. It is believed that while the saint was tending

a dying pagan chieftain she spent her time in prayer and plaited some rushes from the floor into the shape of an equal-armed cross. Her patient asked about this, and after being told the story of Jesus Christ and the message of salvation he was baptised before he died.

Clonmacnoise is one of the most important and oldest places of pilgrimage in the country - its most famous pilgrim being Pope John Paul II in 1979. The presence of the High Cross with drawings from the Old Testament acts as a magnet to draw us back again and again to enjoy the peace and calm of this monastery of ancient glory.

Glendalough, hidden away like an Aladdin's Cave in the Wicklow Hills, is well known as a thriving Christian centre. St. Kevin came to this secluded valley around the sixth century to commune in peaceful prayer with his maker and to get away from the pressures of the world. Glendalough has many churches, Romanesque buildings and of course Round Towers. One of these small Romanesque buildings known as the Priest's House is believed to house the relics of St. Kevin. There is a small slit in one wall, which could be explained as a 'peep hole' for pilgrims to view the grave of the saint and enable them to lower their pieces of cloth to touch the earth in which he lay.



FROM OUR
**PARISH
TEAM**

Fr. Patrick writes

LOVE LETTERS

No doubt you are eagerly awaiting the arrival of your Valentine Card tomorrow, February 14th, or perhaps you have the table booked in your favourite restaurant for that special meal with your beloved. However, I trust that it will not upset your plans to learn that tomorrow is not officially the feast of poor Saint Valentine but rather that of the two brothers, Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius!

Who, you ask, are Cyril and Methodius? Did you know that they are the patron saints of Europe? They were born in Salonika and educated at Constantinople. Becoming missionaries to the Slavs they felt that their task was to translate the Gospels into the Slavonic language. To do this they invented the alphabet which bears their name, the Cyrillic alphabet (used today in modern Russian). Their whole aim was to inculturate the message of Christ among the people. Their use of the ordinary language of the people in liturgy brought great opposition. They were called to Rome; thankfully Pope Adrian II approved of their great work. Cyril died at Rome on 14th February 869, while Methodius went on to preach the Gospel in what is now Hungary. There is an Irish connection: Cyril is buried in the Irish Dominican Church of San Clemente in Rome and his tomb is kept and venerated by the Irish priests there.

Valentine too has Irish and Roman connections! Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century. Claudius II was the emperor at the time and being a man of war he was trying to mobilise an army. He found that unmarried men were better soldiers than those with wives, and so he forbade marriage completely. Our friend Valentine, being the good priest that he was, used to marry the young men to their sweethearts in secret. He was discovered and imprisoned. While there he showed that he had great healing powers and he healed a daughter of one of the Roman judges, Astorius. Before being sent to death on 14th February 269, he wrote his last letter to the young girl that he had healed and signed it 'Your Valentine'. In 1836 Saint Valentine's remains were brought to Dublin to the Carmelite Church in White Friar Street by a Fr. John Spratt. They are venerated there to this day.

Both Cyril and Valentine died in Rome on 14th February; both their graves are with the Irish. Both are immortalised through the written word and most importantly both are to be celebrated for their undying love. Maybe you won't get that Valentine Card tomorrow, or perhaps there is no place reserved for you in a restaurant, yet I hope that you will experience the love which fired the lives of Valentine, Cyril and his brother Methodius.





Sunday is not only a remembrance of a past event; it is a celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his own people. For this presence to be properly proclaimed, it is not enough for Christians to pray individually. As members of the Church it is important for them to assemble together, particularly at the celebration of the Eucharist (the Mass), which is at the heart of the Church's life, and which literally means 'thanksgiving'. The Sunday Mass, when the Christian community relives the experience of the Apostles meeting Christ after the resurrection, is a particular sign of the Church journeying towards the final 'Lord's Day' when Christ will return.

At the Sunday Mass, the different groups and movements within the parish come together, and encounter God in his word (in the readings from the Bible) and in Holy Communion. They bring their whole lives, with all the burdens of the previous week, and share with the whole community in thanking God for the gifts of creation and salvation.

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Pray For The Dead



Teresa (Dolly) O'Flynn, Liam Lynch Park, died peacefully in Cork University Hospital two weeks before her 87th birthday. Dolly had been confined to bed for most of the past three months, but she still retained her interest in people and especially her sense of humour. One of the earliest arrivals in Liam Lynch Park, she was very attached to the S.M.A. family and church from which she was buried. We offer our deepest sympathies to her daughter Mary and her many neighbours and friends. May she be reunited with her husband, Der, in the eternal happiness of heaven.

My Millennium Wish

I have a dream to tell you,
About a world, a world so new,
I have a dream, where I can see,
A wonderful place for you and me.

In my dream, all wars are ended,
All hate is gone, all fights are mended,
There is plenty of food to feed the poor,
It's a wonderful, wonderful world for sure.

There are no earthquakes, floods or fire,
And everyone gets what they desire.
Cures for diseases, education for all,
Respect for everyone, big and small.

By Nicola Collins



Irish Senior Citizens Parliament

The executive will be holding an open meeting in Connolly Hall, Lapp's Quay, on Thursday next 17th February at 2.00 p.m. **sharp.**

CURA Pregnancy Care Association

Recruiting new volunteers. Information meetings at 34 Paul Street (beside Tesco Shopping Centre) tel. 277554, on Monday 21st February at 10.30 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. If you can give two hours weekly and attend monthly meeting/supervision please come along and learn about the service. Refreshments provided. Please bring a friend.

Bulletins to the Homes

Bulletins will be delivered to all homes in the parish next weekend.

Pastoral Council

Monthly meeting this Monday 14th at 8.10 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Quiz Night

Organised by the Parents' Association of Colaiste an Spioraid Naomh, at the G.A.A. Club, Bishopstown, on Wednesday 16th February at 8 p.m. Cost £12 per table.

Bereaved Parents Support Group

Meet on second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Christian Brothers' Centre, Sullivans Quay. Everyone welcome. A new handbook is now available. Contact Tony at 364695.

I.C.A. Bishopstown Branch

Meeting in S.M.A. Centre at 8 p.m. Thursday 17th February. Food Demonstration will be given.

Party for the Elderly

Cork District & Lions Club will host a Social in the S.M.A. Hall on Friday 18th February at 8 p.m. All very welcome to attend.

Readings for Sunday 20 February

Is. 43:18-25. Ps. 40.
Cor. 1:18-22. Mk. 2:1-12.

EMERGENCY NUMBER

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